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March 7, 1942

HEADQUARTERS WESTERN DEFENSE COMMAND AND FOURTH ARMY  
Presidio of San Francisco, California

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lieutenant General J. L. DeWitt, Commanding General of the Western Defense Command and Fourth Army, today announced the acquisition of approximately 5800 acres of land in Owens Valley, Inyo County, California, for the establishment of a reception center to facilitate the resettlement of persons excluded from the recently designated Military Area No. 1 along the Pacific Coast and Southern Arizona.

The property, which is owned by the City of Los Angeles and is under the jurisdiction of that city's Department of Water and Power, will be acquired immediately. Notice of the acquisition was given today in a letter from General DeWitt to H. H. Van Norman, General Manager of the Bureau of Water Works and Supply, Department of Water and Power, City of Los Angeles.

The text of General DeWitt's letter to Mr. Van Norman is as follows:

"By Executive Order of the President of the United States dated February 19, 1942, the Secretary of War and certain military commanders designated by him were authorized and directed to provide for the exclusion of any or all persons from certain areas delimited as military areas. By order of the Secretary of War issued February 20, 1942, the undersigned was designated as the military commander through whom the duties and responsibilities imposed by said Executive Order will be executed in the territory embraced in the Western Defense Command.

"Accordingly, on March 2, 1942, by Public Proclamation No. 1, the undersigned designated military areas numbered 1 and 2. Military necessity requires the exclusion of Japanese aliens and persons



of Japanese ancestry, initially from certain points within military area No. 1, which embraces the coastal areas of Washington, Oregon and California and the southern half of Arizona. In order adequately to provide the means for orderly and rapid accomplishment of these objectives, the immediate establishment of necessary facilities to care for persons excluded is necessary. With the assistance of Federal, State and local agencies a careful reconnaissance has been undertaken of possible sites for this purpose. Although many areas were suggested as immediately available, actual surveys on the ground revealed only two sites possessing all the features necessary and desirable for the intended use. Both of these sites are absolutely essential to the program. One of these sites lies in the area known as Owens Valley within Inyo County, California, the ownership of which is in the City of Los Angeles.

"In view of the urgency of the situation, I have initiated construction of necessary facilities in Owens Valley near Manzanar upon property owned by the City of Los Angeles and within the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Water Works and Supply thereof. The exact description of this property is more particularly shown on Exhibit A attached hereto. Use of this property will be for so long as the present emergency requires, following which possession will be relinquished. Incident to the use of the said property, water in the watershed in which the said property lies will be appropriated in such quantities and for such specific purposes as may be necessary, fully bearing in mind, however, the needs of the City of Los Angeles for such water.



"You are assured that adequate provision will be made and continued for protection of the Los Angeles Municipal Water Aqueduct and works appurtenant thereto against any injury or pollution by reason of the project herein mentioned.

"I therefore advise you in the name of the United States Government that, effective immediately, temporary possession of the said property described in Exhibit A attached hereto will be taken by duly authorized officials and agents of the United States Government for such uses as may be necessary.

"None of the legal rights of the City of Los Angeles has been or will be impaired due to this action in view of the provisions of the Tucker Act, 28 USCA, Section 41, Subsection 20."

Commenting upon the program, General DeWitt said:

"Immediate establishment of reception centers is essential to provide orderly and rapid resettlement of persons excluded from designated military areas. With the assistance of Federal, State and local agencies, a careful reconnaissance has been undertaken of possible sites for such centers. Although many areas were considered, actual surveys on the ground developed only two sites possessing all the features necessary and desirable for a reception center.

"One of these sites lies in the area known as Owens Valley, Inyo County, California, the ownership of which lies with the City of Los Angeles. Possession of the Owens Valley property will be relinquished with the close of the present emergency. During its use by the Federal authorities, all necessary precautions will be taken to protect the watershed, municipal aqueduct and water works. Because of military surveillance of excluded persons at the reception center the location



of the center in this area will actually afford the water supply and facilities greater protection than they have had heretofore.

"Present plans of the resettlement program call for the construction of pre-fabricated houses of a family rather than dormitory type at the reception center, near Manzanar, California. This site was selected because of adequate railway facilities, water supply and agricultural land sufficient to make the center largely self-sustaining. While the center is to be used principally as a clearing house for the more permanent resettlement elsewhere of persons excluded from military areas, a self-supporting establishment will be maintained so far as is feasible.

"Water in the watershed in which the property lies and the rights to which are legally vested in the City of Los Angeles is more than sufficient to take care of the needs of the center, without even slight interference with the requirements of the City of Los Angeles. Full protection will be given the Los Angeles Municipal Water Aqueduct and works against possible damage or pollution."



WARTIME CIVIL CONTROL ADMINISTRATION  
WESTERN DEFENSE COMMAND AND FOURTH ARMY  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

PRESS RELEASE

MARCH 18, 1942

THE FOLLOWING IS RELEASED FOR PUBLICATION AT ONCE:

Brush was being cleared and prefabricated houses were springing up today at Manzanar, Calif., in the Owens Valley, where hundreds of mechanics, carpenters and laborers are constructing the first Japanese Resettlement Camp on the Pacific Coast. Manzanar is a few miles south of Independence, about 40 miles south of Bishop, Calif.

Complete facilities for housing and caring for 1000 evacuees will be completed by the first of next week, according to Col. Karl R. Bendetsen, of the Wartime Civil Control Administration. The Manzanar camp will house 10,000 Japanese when finished.

Construction of the camp in Inyo County is under direction of the U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers. Camp management will be handled by WPA officials, working under the WCCA.

Houses for the resettled Japanese are of the "family unit" type, in order that family units will not have to be split. The camp will provide community kitchen and eating arrangements.

"We expect the camp to be largely self-sustaining," a WCCA official said, "and opportunities for development of truck gardening and small industries--such as commercial fisheries and pheasant farms--appear excellent. The camp is ideally situated, away from the sandy soil near the mountains. There is an adequate supply of water." First contingent of Japanese will be put to work clearing brush and building gardening installations.



A 50-bed hospital will be ready for the first evacuees, staffed by Japanese doctors and nurses. This program is under direction of the Public Health Service in cooperation with the WCCA. Likewise, recreation facilities are being arranged in the form of movies, athletic games and possibly university extension courses.

Provision for free religious worship of all denominations--including Buddhism--has been made. Since the camp will be composed largely of voluntary migrants, officials expect close cooperation from the Japanese on camp management.



WARTIME CIVIL CONTROL ADMINISTRATION  
WESTERN DEFENSE COMMAND AND FOURTH ARMY  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.

PRESS RELEASE---IMMEDIATE

March 21, 1942.

In striking contrast to the fleeing refugees in other lands, the first exodus of Japanese and Japanese Americans from the Western parts of the Pacific Coast states, starts in Los Angeles Monday morning, with a voluntary movement, in ordered arrangement, with military forces as escorts rather than guards.

Instead of pushcarts and wheelbarrows, or walking, the 1000 Japanese affected will travel in their own automobiles, in busses, and by train to the Manzanar Reception Center established in Owens Valley, Calif.

The Los Angeles voluntary movement is the first mass departure from Military Area No. 1 in accordance with the evacuation decrees of Lieutenant General John L. DeWitt, Commanding General of the Western Defense Command. Other evacuations will be continued, to fulfill the Army's mission of minimizing sabotage and espionage in the critical areas of the Pacific Coast.

General DeWitt was designated by President Roosevelt's executive order to proclaim military areas from which all persons may be excluded in the interests of national defense. He proclaimed the western portions of Washington, Oregon, California and Southern Arizona as Area No. 1, from which enemy aliens and Japanese Americans are to be excluded first--first the Japanese and Japanese Americans, then Germans and Italians.

To carry out his policies of having such evacuations preceded by proper consideration of the property rights of the affected people, and careful preparation for their welfare, General DeWitt created a Civil Affairs Division in the Western Defense Command. This is headed by Col. Karl R. Bendetsen, G.S.C. Under Col. Bendetsen was created the Wartime Civil Control Administration, to handle all individual and property protection problems, sales, sub-leases and prevention of fraud against the Japanese.

The reception center at Manzanar is prepared to shelter and feed 1000 persons. Later, it will accommodate 10,000 or more. Now, evacuation is under way.

Execution of actual evacuation is a responsibility of the Western Defense Command's sector commanders. Major General Walter K. Wilson, commanding general of the Southern California Sector, has issued the following regulations regarding the movement of 1000 Japanese:

Those leaving in their own car report at 6 AM Monday at the South end of the Rose Bowl in Pasadena. They come prepared to start at 6:15, their tanks filled with gasoline, their tires and a spare in good shape, and prepared to buy their own gasoline enroute. Those going by busses report at 7 AM at 222 South Hewitt Street, Los Angeles. The train contingent will leave the old Santa Fe depot at 8 AM.

Each person will bring his or her bedding, except mattresses, tools of his trade, cooking and eating utensils, clothing and personal belongings, and a gallon of water. Those going by train can take what they can carry with them. Those using their own cars can carry what they can load into their machines. Each must care for his own belongings.

Under escort of troops, the caravans will travel in 10-car convoys. Two persons to a coupe or roadster, three to a touring car, and four to a truck are the passenger limitations.

Evacuees will have eaten breakfast when they appear for removal. They will be furnished a cold lunch enroute---and at the end of their 300 mile drive, or their train trip, a warm supper will await them, they will be comfortably housed, awaiting their establishment of community life and their later departure for permanent location under the War Relocation Authority.

General DeWitt's insistence that justice and kindness should govern the evacuations and the evacuees has been carried out by co-operation of a dozen governmental agencies, operating under the Wartime Civil Control Administration. Now that the machinery is with the Japanese through the 604 services centers established along the Pacific Slope, they are taking speedy action to settle their affairs in advance of evacuation, voluntary or otherwise.



C\_O\_P\_Y

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY  
SAN FRANCISCO REGIONAL OFFICE  
WHITCOMB HOTEL BUILDING  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

FOR ADMINISTRATIVE USE ONLY  
.....NOT FOR PUBLICATION.....

MAY 18, 1942

REPORT ON FOOD PRODUCTION PLANS

AT MANZANAR

(Source: Teletype from Bob Brown to Edwin Bates,  
dated Independence, Calif., May 16, 1942)

Latest development here for your broadcast next week regards the planting program, now getting under way on first 120 acres sagebrush cleared. As planting season is getting late plus shortage of heavy equipment such as tractors, due to tremendous demands of armed forces, Japanese here voluntarily have asked to be put on seven-day week, 24-hour shift, for preparing ground and planting to get crop in. We have four crews working six-hour shifts around the clock. Now planting 20,000 tomatoe plants, also all other vegetables as released in story from here first of week. We expect to raise vegetables to materially, if not completely, take care of camp through autumn and winter.



COPY

WESTERN UNION

BISHOP, CALIFORNIA  
MAY 6, 1942

ED BATES  
CHIEF, INFORMATION SERVICE WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY  
SAN FRANCISCO CALIF

SET IN THE SHADOW OF LOFTY MT. WHITNEY, HIGHEST PEAK IN THE US  
MANZANAR RECEPTION CENTER IN THE OWENS RIVER VALLEY, IS AT PRESENT THE  
HOME OF SOME 7000 JAPANESE AND JAPANESE-AMERICANS. SITE OF THEIR HOME  
WAS ONCE A PROSPEROUS APPLE GROWING COMMUNITY HENCE THE NAME MANZANAR  
FROM THE SPANISH NAME MEANING APPLE. CITY OF LOS ANGELES, IN SEARCH  
FOR WATER, BOUGHT THE LAND 15 YEARS AGO FOR WATER RIGHTS, ALLOWING  
MANY OF THE ORCHARDS TO DIE AND LAND RETURN TO NATIVE SAGEBRUSH. CAMP  
IS SPREAD OUT ON A GREAT ALLUVIAL FAN WITH 700 BUILDINGS OCCUPYING A  
SQUARE 480 ACRES IN EXTENT. ON THE UPPER HALF OF CAMP NEAREST THE  
MOUNTAINS, APPLE TREES STILL PROSPER THOUGH RANK FROM FIFTEEN YEARS  
OF UNATTENTION. HERE WAS ONE OF THE FIRST JOBS TACKLED BY INCOMING  
JAPANESE GARDENERS, WHO PRUNED BACK OF TREES, PUTTING SCORES OF ACRES  
OF TREES BACK IN PRODUCTION. APPLES WILL BE USED BY CAMP AND ANY  
SURPLUS WILL BE CANNED FOR WINTER USE. TOTAL ACREAGE OF PROJECT IS  
6054 ACRES LYING NORTH AND SOUTH AT BASE OF SIERRA NEVADA CREST FOR  
SOME SEVEN MILES. AS OLD IRRIGATION DITCHES ARE REPAIRED AND NEW  
ONES DUG MUCH OF THIS TOTAL ACREAGE WILL COME BACK IN GARDENS AND CROPS  
TO MAKE THE CAMP AS SELF SUSTAINING AS POSSIBLE. INSIDE THE CAMP IS  
DIVIDED INTO 48 BLOCKS OF 15 BUILDINGS EACH BLOCK HAS ITS OWN MESS  
AND RECREATION HALL. EACH ELECTS ITS OWN BLOCK LEADER WHO REPRESENTS



THE BLOCK ON THE QUOTE TOWN COUNCIL UNQUOTE. BATH, AND LAUNDRY FACILITIES ARE FURNISHED FOR EACH BLOCK IN SEPARATE BUILDINGS LOCATED IN CENTER. EACH INDIVIDUAL BUILDING, 100 BY 20 FEET, IS DIVIDED INTO FOUR SLEEPING APARTMENTS AND DESIGNED TO ACCOMMODATE A TOTAL OF FROM 24 TO 28 PEOPLE OR APPROXIMATELY A FAMILY OF SIX FOR EACH APARTMENT. ALL FUNCTIONS OF RUNNING THE CAMP ARE MANNED BY JAPANESE SUPERVISED BY CAUCASIANS. CAMP HAS ITS OWN FIRE DEPARTMENT MANNED JAPANESE SUPERVISED BY TRAINED CAUCASIAN FIREMEN. WITH MODERN FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENT. INTERNAL POLICE ARE JAPANESE SUPERVISED BY CAUCASIAN POLICE WHO ARE ALSO DEPUTY SHERIFFS. MILITARY POLICE OF COURSE GUARD THE OUTSIDE CONFINES OF THE CAMP. IT HAS ITS OWN MIMEOGRAPHED NEWSPAPER THE MANZANAR FREE PRESS WRITTEN ENTIRELY IN ENGLISH BY JAPANESE. WITH FEW EXCEPTIONS ALL STENOGRAPHIC HELP IS JAPANESE, AS ARE ALL CLERKS, LABORERS, WAREHOUSEMEN, GROUND CREWS, INFORMATION CREWS, KITCHEN HELP ETC. FULL RECREATION PROGRAM HAS BEEN DEVELOPED WITH TWO BASEBALL LEAGUES, WOMEN SOFTBALL LEAGUES, VOLLYBALL FOR SPORTS. CITIZENSHIP AND AMERICAN - IZATION CLASSES, AND HANDCRAFT WORK FOR OTHERS AFFORD A LEISURE TIME PROGRAM. A LIBRARY IS BEING ESTABLISHED. PROTESTANT AND CATHOLIC CHURCHES SERVICES ARE HELD EACH SUNDAY UNDER LEADERSHIP OF JAPANESE MINISTERS OF THE GOSPEL AND A ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIEST WHO COMES FOR THE OCCASION. FORMAL SCHOOLS ARE PLANNED TO OPEN WITH THE NEW TERM IN SEPTEMBER. POST OFFICE IS BRANCH OF LOSANGELES POST OFFICE BECAUSE OF TRAINED PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT. IT REPORTS BOOMING BUSINESS IN MAIL ORDER NECESSITIES OF LIFE AT PRESENT AS THE INTERNAL CANTEN PLANNED IS NOT YET READY. IT ALSO REPORTS SALE OF OVER 500 DOLLARS IN DEFENSE BONDS AND STAMPS. A 250 BED HOSPITAL IS NEARING COMPLETION. PRESENT EMERGENCY HOSPITAL IS MANNED BY JAPANESE STAFF OF FOUR DOCTORS AND 12 NURSES. DR. JAMES COTE CHIEF, WAS PAST SIX YEARS TOP SURGEON



LA COUNTY HOSPITAL. LIFE GOES ON AS USUAL. FIRST BABY BORN LAST WEEK NAMED KNEJI MEANING HEALTHY BOY. THREE MARRIAGES SINCE FIRST CAMP OPENED. AS YET NO DEATHS SEVERAL LARGE PROJECTS OF LASTING VALUE TO THE COMMUNITY AND THE PEOPLE OF US BEING DISCUSSED. LOCAL OUTSIDE PEOPLE HOPE THESE WILL MATERIALIZE LARGEST AND MOST TALKED OF LOCALLY IS POSSIBLE BUILDING OF LARGE HEALTH CENTER AND HOSPITAL FOR VETERANS OF PRESENT CONFLICT--TO BE BUILT OF NATIVE MATERIALS AND LOCATED ON THE SPECTACULAR SLOPES OF THE SIERRA NEVADA MOUNTAINS. END. FOR DRAMATIC INCIDENT TO ILLUSTRATE ASPECT OF RELOCATION BEST WE HAVE AT PRESENT IS STORY OF REHABILITATION OF THE APPLE ORCHARDS. SOME OF THESE TREES WERE PLANTED IN THE 1860'S. THEIR GNARLED AND TWISTED LIMBS HAVE WITHSTOOD THE RAVAGES OF TIME AND NEGLECT. AT ONE TIME THEY PRODUCED APPLES THAT WERE KNOWN ALL OVER AMERICA. WHEN THE FIRST JAPANESE SAW THEM THEY WERE JUST BEGINNING TO COME INTO BLOOM. TOM YAMISAKA JAPANESE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA GRADUATE, NOW REPORTER ON MANZANAR FREE PRESS IN REPORTING THIS SAID THE FIRST JAPANESE LOOKED AT THOSE TREES, AND AT THE FERTILE SOIL IN WHICH THEY STOOD, AND AT THE MAJESTIC MOUNTAINS BEHIND THE TREES, AND SAID TO EACH OTHER QUOTE IF THESE TREES CAN WITHSTAND THE ELEMENTS AND YEARS OF NEGLECT AND STILL RAISE THEIR BRANCHES TOWARD THE MOUNTAINS AND STILL PRODUCE APPLES THIS IS GOOD COUNTRY. IT IS GOOD WE COME. WE CAN NOW HELP TREES UNQUOTE. ONE ORCHARD WAS OUTSIDE LIMITS OF CAMP AS SET BY MILITARY POLICE AND BECAUSE OF SHORTAGE OF CAUCASIAN FOREMEN JAPANESE PRUNING CREW WAS NOT ALLOWED TO GO TO THIS ORCHARD ONE DAY. TIME WAS SHORT FOR PRUNING AS TREES WERE IN LAST STAGES OF BLOOM. TED AKAHASHI, HEAD PRUNER, BECAME SO EMOTIONALLY EXCITED HE CRIED AND COULDN'T SLEEP ALL NIGHT WORRYING ABOUT THE TREES...WAS ONLY CALMED NEXT DAY WHEN ADMINISTRATION FOUND AN EXTRA FOREMAN WHO COULD SUPERVISE JOB. IN ALL SOME 40 ACRES OF APPLES



HAVE BEEN REHABILITATED THIS SPRING WITH ABOUT THIS MUCH MORE  
IN LINE FOR THE NEXT YEAR.

BOB BROWN



## Behind the News

With Arthur Caylor

Whichever way you travel across the square-mile, dust-wrapped community of Manzanar—the permanent Japanese relocation center in the Mojave—you bump into a softball game. It's softball, really. But nothing was ever more truly sandlot. The main playings fields are in the wide streets which transect the only city of 10,000 outside Tibet with no pavements, no sidewalks, and no traffic problem—just sand.



They have 58 teams. The Japanese are crazy about baseball. The scores are the principal outside news in the Manzanar Free Press. You may wonder why regular games aren't going on. The answer is that the War Relocation Authority has no money for equipment at the moment.

Recreation Director Aksel Nielsen could use money for diamonds and backstops and masks and tennis courts and wrestling mats and basketball stuff. But, shucks, if he tries to get so much as a pair of horseshoes at the moment he's likely to run into priority restrictions—metal, you know.

However, if he had oodles of money he wouldn't go much beyond baseball equipment at the moment, because most sports are seasonal and he considers it necessary to keep them seasonal if they are to provide the fresh edge of recreation. Nielsen's problem is terrific. Their elders listen to the radio or the tinkle of old Japanese music on their portable phonographs, but if the youngsters get neither hard work nor hard exercise, ingrowing ennui may lead to complications.

Trying to make the best of things, the Japanese have made a recreation of art. Anybody may attend classes. Particularly children. They had several crowded exhibitions the day I was there. Some stuff was very good. But what impressed me most was the complete lack of humor.

In such a jackpot, Caucasian-Americans would respond with a flood of life-at-Manzanar pictures—full of belly-laughs and vinegar—in the same spirit that a rookie, grabbed from his home and handed both a new residence and a musket, starts singing, "You're in the Army Now." There was none of that.

The only Japanese I heard turn on full-blown laughs were some youngsters at a kind of crokinole game and a girl in the crowded canteen, who was helping hand out candy bars and pop—a necessity of life on the desert. The girl was the type who would laugh anywhere—fat and hearty and frighteningly healthy.

They tell me there was considerable laughter at the Japanese play put on outdoors after Memorial Day exercises at which veterans of World War I marched. Somehow I'm rather glad I missed the parade, but I'd like to have seen the play. Outdoors in the desert night, with part of the big audience sitting on benches, the rest standing, it must have been something memorable. They tried

some outdoor movies, but they didn't go very well—perhaps because the person selecting the film sent up news reels of the invasion of Poland.

The Japanese would make more of a recreation of reading if they had more books. The library has an expert staff, but it has to depend on gifts. It could use more adult fiction and—especially—subscriptions to current magazines. But a fat chance it has of such gifts when service organizations are competing for the same donations. So children sit on the floor—benches being short—and read such things as old books of comic strips, while their elders try "Rollo in Europe," "The Trail of the Lonesome Pine," or something else usually met only in an attic or on the dime shelf of a second-hand book store.

You may wonder why the Japanese don't chip in and buy some things for themselves. Well, some individual Japanese may be worrying about how they'll pay income taxes, but the community is short of money. There has been talk that the Japanese will receive anywhere from \$16 to \$30 a month, but nothing has happened yet. They don't even sign the payroll.

I don't want to get involved in the question of how much the Japanese should receive, but I'd like to report simply that a visit to Manzanar will show you how much a part of the machinery of community life money happens to be.

Without money it becomes a major problem to get some extra soap, a spool of thread, a new lens for broken glasses. Old clothes for the men and cotton dresses for the women suffice in these dusty days. In fact, the dress standard is about that of a hot-weather high school crowd. But these things will wear out, and money will be needed to replace them—if individuality is to be maintained.

\* \* \*

I'm sure the last thing Director Roy Nash would want would be uniforms. In fact, he's aiming at a self-contained community, supervised with as little interference as will meet wartime requirements. But, unless the Japanese are given some money—simply as a tool—Nash and his staff will have on their hands the most colossal job of wet-nursing in history.

Nash has worked many years among the Indians. He knows minority groups and he knows Government procedure. The first thing he went after was a couple of key assistants who know Uncle Sam's red-tape and can do things right the first try. He got them.

Next he urged that the Japanese—10,000 penned within one square mile—be allowed the restricted freedom of the 6000-acre reservation. He cut the police force from 30 to five when assured he could have a chief who knew his business. The soldiers stay—but outside. Nash lives at Manzanar exactly like any Japanese, except he has plenty of work to do and a movie king's former butler handles his bed-making problem for him.

So Manzanar is growing in the dust. Departing, you look back and the dust haze is still all over the valley—drifting higher than neighboring Mt. Whitney. It will be there until the grass grows—on many graves perhaps.



San Francisco News  
June 4, 1942  
p. 1

## Manzanar, Miracle Town

BY ARTHUR CAYLOR

This story about Manzanar — Mojave Desert home of California's up-rooted Japanese—started yesterday. The synopsis of previous chapters is that it's very dusty. But, dusty or not, it's a miracle town. For no boom town—no complete city anywhere—ever grew like this tar-paper community of 10,000 people.

The Army built it. The Army populated it. The Army did a whale of a job. But the Army is ordinarily by, of and for men only. Such phenomena as love-life, maternity, old age, runs in stockings and hair-dos are among its minor concerns. Yet it tried hard to assemble young and old, shy and bold, Japan-born and native-born, male and female with a minimum of blunders and bruises.

True, the Army sent along only one bassinet to handle the birth-rate—which countered immediately with five boys, two girls, and another boy. But if the barrack which is now the emergency hospital can't take care of new mothers for the usual two weeks, the babies get their formula for a few days from a registered nurse.

This hospital certainly started from scratch. But everything it gets is that much velvet. Manchester Boddy, the Los Angeles publisher, heard a Japanese acquaintance was down with pneumonia and sent up an air-conditioner which keeps the

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(Over)



# Behind the News

With Arthur Caylor

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dust out of his tiny two-bed ward. It saved the patient's life—and the hospital now has the air-conditioner for keeps.

In the improvised surgery, Dr. James Goto counts that day lost when he doesn't snatch an ailing appendix—usually after waiting up half the night for some puzzled stork to find the new address of a Japanese mother. If a baby and an appendix ever arrive at the same time. . . .



Five Japanese doctors—two women and three men, who return thanks daily for an adequate staff of trained nurses—attend to emergency, obstetrical and contagious cases. Chronics will have to wait until completion of the new hospital—five barracks joined by catwalks—lets them get

around to hemorrhoids and athlete's foot. That may be September. Schools first.

Dr. Goto well illustrates the top problem of the Japanese. They won't tell you this—but you can sense it. The white staff, to whom they are fast becoming individuals, finds them much more integrated to America than any one supposed. As for this interlude, they can take it. But they hunger for certainty that, afterward, they won't be cast out as pariahs. I don't see how the Twelve Apostles could give them such an assurance—and do it honestly.

This Goto is a Hell of a fellow—a born leader with personality plus. He preaches that every evacuee should try to snatch advantage from disaster. On that theory he is training 15 stenographers to be crack medical secretaries. Manzanar promises to thrust upon him the surgical experience of a dozen lifetimes. Will he be allowed to practice?

Take Karl Yoneda. Everybody on the waterfront knows San Francisco's only Japanese member of the Longshoremen's Union. He is married to Elaine Black. Their son is named for Tom Mooney. They are with him at Manzanar. Before he was elected a block leader the other day he gave notice that his only interest is fighting fascism. They elected him anyhow. Will he ever get back into the labor movement?

All the Japanese are eager for news. Particularly they want to know how the world outside is reacting toward them. But the papers they get are scant pre-dates. The mimeographed Manzanar Free Press is mostly "home-town." Radio broadcasts neither reflect popular sentiment in editorial comment nor emphasize such intimate matters at the Native Sons'

suit to disfranchise them, the attitude of Congress, or the progress of the race between Governor Olson and Earl Warren, whose views on this Japanese problem have points of difference.

Another key problem is the unseen clash between alien and native-born. Between these groups exists a gap even of age. Most Japan-born are over 40. The "Nisei" are generally under 25. Some of the elders sympathize with Japan. Some resent information given the FBI by Japanese-Americans. Some charge selfish rather than patriotic motives.

The prospect is that this situation will be eased by the shipment—soon—of Japanese who elect to return to Japan under an exchange-of-nationals program. I don't know the details. In fact, I wasn't there long enough to get behind the Japanese facade and bite into this battle of the generations. Maybe a Caucasian couldn't do it. Yet, the Japanese are less inclined than white staff members to sugar-coat their conversation. They either speak out or hold their peace.

The chief event right now is that the Army is withdrawing. The War Relocation Authority is taking over. The transfer means extra red-tape—when every move has time, procedure and priority entanglements, anyhow. The Army's problem was to act fast. That of WRA is to take the long view. The Army had plenty of money. But that was to get rid of the Japanese. It's different with WRA, which must wangle its money not to fight the Japanese but to help them.

If WRA had the money it would do more things faster. For instance, it would instantly furnish the Japanese with more tools and supplies which would allow them to make improvements—even if only such simple things as more partitions for the sake of family privacy. This—productive work—is what the Japanese want above everything else.

Somehow this desire for simple betterments reminds me of the time the late W. A. Bechtel, then president of the Six Companies, looked out over growing Boulder Dam and told me he had a house full of persian rugs but the happiest occasion of his life was still the time he and Mrs. Bechtel were living in a box-car—and got some new wall-paper.

Next WRA would turn on the water and grow some grass—thus conquering the dust. Los Angeles has first dibs on the Owens Valley water supply as a reserve, but there's still plenty. But its funds and equipment must go first for shelter, schools, plowing-and-ditching. For such items as grass seed the Japanese will have to wait. They have little else to do.

(Concluded tomorrow.)



## MANZANAR-- AMERICA'S DUST BOWL

BY ARTHUR CAYLOR

America's newest dust bowl lies between Independence and Lone Pine in the Owens Valley at a spot called Manzanar—permanent location center for 10,000 of California's evacuated Japanese. Manzanar means "apple" in somebody's language. Any other connection between this place and the Garden of Eden is purely coincidental.

It may give you a notion of the remoteness of Manzanar to tell you that the Owens Valley is an extension of the Mojave Desert. But you will get the idea on learning that it is the last ultimate outpost of Los Angeles—its Post-office being a branch. Two cents will carry a letter 200 miles to Fifth and Spring, but it costs 3c to mail a letter to Independence, six miles away.

But so very very many things around Manzanar are topsy-turvy that one can't quibble about the postal system. The ground, for instance, frequently seems to be in the air. They scraped the desert floor to level off a mile-square site for a tar-paper city, and nothing will hold the dust and sand down until grass grows—some time.

As you come along Highway 395 the first thing you see, miles ahead, is a haze which fills the valley from Mt. Whitney on one side to Mt. Something on the other—and is just as high. It couldn't be a haze, though, because the Owens Valley has four inches of rain a year—some

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(Over)



# Behind the News

With Arthur Caylor

(Concluded From Page 1)

years. It's dust, raised by thousands of Japanese feet trampling through the loose sand.

Then, boom, you come upon soldiers—military



police—walking post under the desert sun with bayonet slanting over shoulder or a tommy-gun swung abaft. They're still wearing woolens and overseas caps. Not for them is the privilege of going inside the settlement for a coca cola. They live by themselves, two whoops down the road. But they make you realize, more than does the dust cloud, that you have arrived at Manzanar.

The physical appearance of the place is that of a construction camp—and not a glorified construction camp at that. All buildings are low. All appear the same. In fact, they are the same. Except for latrines and laundries, every structure is a barrack and identical, whether used for an office, store, home or recreation hall.

Wide, sandy spaces run between blocks, and you see a good many people. You notice particularly the women and the kids. So many. The youngsters are playing or toddling. The women wade with a dainty and sometimes pigeon-toed care through the sand. Up the nearest street you may notice a lineup that recalls Army days. Sure enough, the line consists of people waiting for chow.

\* \* \*

The chow is regular Army, served cafeteria style—and bring back your dishes. There's always rice and tea. I ate cold meat, lettuce and tomato salad, canned corn, fresh milk and apple pie—skipped, among other things, coleslaw and cheese. Confidentially, I could have gone for a beer, but it's as easy to get liquor on an Indian reservation.

The first stop is usually at headquarters. Even if a nod from a priest has just reminded you that it is Sunday in the outside brightness, the instant you get the door slammed to keep out dust and wind, you realize that days and hours don't exist for the Manzanar staff.

Director Roy Nash, former superintendent of the Blackfeet Reservation, has his people in a huddle—chopping red-tape. It takes a couple of looks to recognize L. W. (Jimmy) Hicks, assistant director, and

Merve Kidwell, chief fixer-upper, as fellow San Franciscans. Kidwell recently worked himself into a fit of pneumonia. His life was saved by Japanese doctors and sulpha drugs originated by Germans.

Everything at Manzanar is based on the block. There are 36. Each has dormitories for single men, four-family houses, a latrine for each and every sex, a recreation hall, and a mess hall. Block leaders represent the residents in almost everything. But there is one important deviation from standard block existence. Any one may get permission to eat at some other mess hall. This keeps the cooks of 36 mess halls on their toes. If they lose patronage they lose face—and job.

The four-family houses are the customary long, wood, lath and tar-paper barracks. They have two extra doors in one side. Sometimes they have interior partitions. Often a one-room home, mostly beds, houses more than one family, and a variety of age groups. It makes a goldfish seem like a hermit. How the more private forms of domesticity survive is something I wouldn't understand. Yet 60 more babies are expected next month, weddings are not infrequent, and Manazar's problems, they tell me, include a slight touch of prostitution.

\* \* \*

The wind doesn't mind tearing occasional chunks of tar-paper off the roofs. The kiln-like climate has shrunk the green wood so, at every board, you can look through cracks in the floor and see the sand. The dust got onto this weeks ago. If a housewife turns the hose on her blankets she can get part of the grit out—but never all.

That's why washing goes on continuously at the laundries. It's done by hand, in regulation built-in tubs. A huge boiler furnishes hot water. A sign says one tier of tubs is reserved for ladies. I forgot to ask who furnishes the soap.

The boys on the staff tell me that you just have to get used to feeling crummy. Bathing seems to lack permanence, but it's quite the opposite with the sand in your hair. The only thing it's harder to get something out of is a Victory Garden.

These are staked out, but there's no equipment with which to work them. The Government is to furnish seed. I asked if the Japanese were supposed to write their congressmen and everybody laughed right heartily. It was one of three laughs I heard.

(More Tomorrow)



Department of the Interior  
War Relocation Authority

Manzanar, California  
Arch Davis  
Release #D-34

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHALFANT PRESS-Inyo Register  
Inyo Independent  
Progress-Citizen

MANZANAR, Calif., June ---Sgt. Komoichi Nakata, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jitsuzo Nakata of 3-2, was awarded the Bronze Star recently for heroic achievement in action, the War Department reports in a press release.

A member of the 442nd Japanese American Combat Team, he was decorated by Major General Edward M. Almond, commander of the 92nd "Buffalo" Division, at the Fifth Army ceremony in Novi, Italy.

He was cited for action in eastern France and his citation read in part:

"When his radio was put out of commission during an artillery barrage, Sergeant Nakata dashed 30 yards to the supply trailer amid the falling shells. While returning with the necessary supplies, he was wounded by a shell fragment, but, nevertheless crept back to his dugout, dragging his injured leg. When advised he was to be evacuated, he refused and remained to assist the radio repairman and continued to operate his radio for another two hours before permitting himself to be evacuated. His courage and devotion are exemplary and a credit to the U.S. Army."

---more---



Department of the Interior  
War Relocation Authority

Manzanar, California  
Arch Davis  
Release #D-34

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHALFANT PRESS-Inyo Register  
Inyo Independent  
Progress-Citizen

Page 2

In addition to the Purple Heart and Bronze Star, Nakata wears the Combat Infantryman Badge, Good Conduct Medal, and the European Theatre Ribbon with four stars.

He formerly resided with his mother, Mrs. Shina Nakata, in Winslow, Wash., and entered the service at Fort Lewis, Wash., in February, 1942.

He has a brother, Kenneth who resides at the Manzanar Center with his parents.

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Department of the Interior  
War Relocation Authority

Manzanar, California  
Arch Davis  
Release #D-31

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHALFANT PRESS- Inyo Register  
Inyo Independent  
Progress-Citizen

MANZANAR, Calif., April      ---Serving with the WRA in  
Manzanar since November 9, 1942, Clyde L. Simpson, former elementary  
school principal and of late the assistant relocation program  
Officer, resigned his position here and left yesterday for Washing-  
ton, D. C. There he will assume his new post as administrative  
assistant to the Director of Camps Division of the United Nations  
Relief and Rehabilitation Administration.

In his new position Mr. Simpson will report directly to Robert  
L. Brown former assistant project director of Manzanar who is now  
the acting director, Camps Division, of the UNRRA.

Simpson was principal of the Manzanar Elementary School until  
January 1, 1945. From then until yesterday, he was with the Reloca-  
tion Office.

Prior to coming to Manzanar, Simpson was principal of the Spring-  
ville Union Elementary School.







Department of the Interior  
War Relocation Authority  
Manzanar, California  
Arch Davis  
Release #D-32

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHALFANT PRESS - Inyo Register  
Progress-Citizen  
Inyo Independent

MANZANAR, Calif., April ---Robert B. Krueger, Manzanar Relocation Advisor, left today to return to Hardin, Montana where he will resume his duties as Supervisor of Big Horn County, Department of Welfare.

Coming to Manzanar in August of 1943, Krueger served as Assistant Welfare Counsellor in charge of clothing and housing until June of 1944. With increase in relocation activities he became relocation advisor and has assisted Japanese Americans in making plans to return to normal communities.

Before coming to Manzanar, Mr. Krueger had been superintendent of the Big Horn County Welfare Department for ten years.







Department of the Interior  
War Relocation Authority  
Manzanar, California  
Arch Davis  
Release #D-33

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHALFANT PRESS - Inyo Register  
Inyo Independent  
Progress-Citizen

MANZANAR, Calif., April ---Memorial services will be held Sunday morning at the Manzanar Community Auditorium for Sgt. Robert Kiyoshi Nakasaki and Pfc. Sadao Munemori, Japanese Americans killed in action in Italy on April 5, 1945.

Telegrams from the Adjutant General's Office were received at Manzanar early this week notifying the mothers of the servicemen of the death of their sons.

Three Manzanar families also received notification that sons were wounded in action in the same theater of operations. The wounded were Sgt. Hideo Saida, Pfc. Mitsuo Hatanaka and Pfc. Kiyoshi Ito.

All were members of the 442nd Infantry which spearheaded the Fifth Army drive below Massa, Italy. In this action the Nisei troops, just back from France took Mt. Folgorito, seized two villages and opened the way to La Spezia, last barrier to the Po river line.





144/7



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The following editorial appeared in the Salt Lake City Telegram  
Monday, July 24:

CONCLUSIVE TEST OF PATRIOTISM

*Yonkio*

Recently 11 wounded men from Bushnell General hospital were feted in Salt Lake City. All were Japanese-Americans who had seen service in the Italian campaign. Most of them lost an arm or a leg and were sent to Bushnell for the fitting of artificial limbs.

It may have been something of a surprise to many Utahns to read about these Americans of Japanese ancestry and their fighting record in Uncle Sam's army. But these 11 are only a few of the hundreds of Japanese-Americans who have faught bravely for their country--America--been killed, wounded, and taken prisoner, praised for performing "brilliantly" in action and decorated for gallantry. And there are thousands more Japanese-Americans now going into action or preparing to do so. The first Japanese American combat unit, the 100th infantry battalion, was activated in May, 1942. It first went into action about a year ago in Italy. Since then up to last May members of this one battalion, fighting in many engagements and singled out for high praise in a 5th army citation, have received 900 purple hearts, 3 distinguished service crosses, 36 silver stars and 21 bronze stars.

News dispatches from Italy the last few days reveal the 100th battalion has now been expanded into the 442nd regimental combat team. All of the enlisted men and more than half of the officers of this regimental unit are Japanese-Americans. Eleanor Packard, U.P. correspondent with U. S. troops in Italy, said in a dispatch they were "rated equally with their American comrades on either flank and were winning the confidence of other troops for their fighting qualities." A few days ago, another news item reveals, they led an attack which threatened to outflank enemy strongholds blocking the way to Livorno and captured 2 villages in fierce fighting.

Japanese-Americans have seen plenty of action in this war on many fronts. Japanese-Americans in the Hawaiian territorial guard fought at Pearl Harbor, reportedly shooting down a raiding Jap plane and capturing the first Japanese prisoner, one half of the crew of a Japanese midget submarine which was wrecked on a Hawaiian reef. A Japanese technical sergeant in the air forces has won 2 distinguished flying crosses and an air medal with 5 oak leaf clusters for his gunnery work on more than 25 European theater bombing missions. Japanese-Americans are serving as interpreters, radio intelligence men and in other capacities all over the Pacific war theater. They have seen action on Bataan, at Tarawa, Kwajalein, New Guinea, Guadalcanal, New Britain and in the China-Burma-India theater.

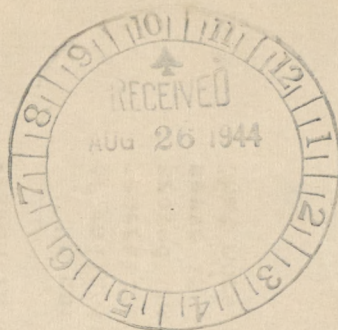


In addition to the thousands of Japanese-Americans who are already on the fighting fronts, thousands more are training. There are today approximately 13,000 soldiers of Japanese ancestry in the army, more than half of whom are now outside the continental United States. There are Japanese-American girls in the W A C and in the nurses corps and more than 200 seamen in the U. S. merchant marine.

No one can say, after the record of volunteering for service, of gallantry in action and of blood sacrifice, that the second generation of Japanese in America have not in large numbers proved their loyalty to their country by their readiness to serve in its armed forces, to fight for it, and to die for it. What more conclusive test of patriotism is there?

# # #







C O P Y

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY  
Manzanar, California

37

June 11, 1942

FROM: Director of Public Relations  
TO: Regional Director, San Francisco  
SUBJECT: Project Report

Sir:

Realizing the acute need for some form of educational system for their children, mothers of three blocks, Nos. 18, 23 and 24, with the aid of the Family Relations Department headed by Mr. Miya Kikuchi, have formulated a tutoring system for grammar, junior high and senior high school pupils.

This system, providing for classes for grammar school pupils and classes for junior and senior high students, is a temporary one, designed to enable pupils to complete their interrupted semester's work.

Acting as tutors for the classes will be voluntary workers. High school graduates will coach the grammar school children, while university students will tutor the higher grade pupils. The students will use their own books--books which they have received through their former schools.

.....



Project Report  
June 11, 1942

p. 2

Following are the results of a survey conducted by social workers of the Family Relations Department on children of school age at Manzanar. (up-to-date figures including the latest arrivals):

Above high school	307
(interested in further education)	
5th grade through Sr. High	1,473
5th grade to 1st grade	624
Pre-school (Nursery school)	314
Infants	<u>405</u>

TOTAL 3,123

During this house-to-house survey, the social workers also collected data on invalids, old-age persons, feeble-minded persons and expectant mothers. Final figures on these data have not been compiled as yet.

Sincerely,

(s) Roy Nash  
Project Director



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WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY  
Manzanar, California  
June 9, 1942

C  
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P  
Y

FROM: Brown, Director of Publicity  
TO: Regional Director  
SUBJECT: Project Report

Sir:

One hundred thirty-five volunteer workers left today by bus for the sugar beet fields in Rupert, Idaho under contract to work for Amalgamated Sugar Corporation of that city.

Workers were recruited here through the United States Employment Service with J. J. Dunbar, representing the sugar company, conferring with officials.

According to Mr. Dunbar wages paid for work in the sugar beet fields will be 22% higher than those paid last year. Thinning will pay \$9.50 per acre; first hoeing, \$2.50; and second hoeing, \$1.50. Workers with dependents here will be required to pay \$20 a month per person for their living expenses in this center.

This work in the sugar beet fields is expected to be complete in six weeks.

Provisions are made in the contract between WRA and the Amalgamated Sugar Corporation that if the workers are dissatisfied they will be returned to Manzanar at the expense of the Corporation and at the expiration of the job all workers will be returned unless they find other employment in that area.

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Regional Director  
June 9, 1942

-2-

With the exception of 200 or 300 persons yet to come, the population of Manzanar Relocation Center is stable, it was announced.

The present population is 9691 and the additional arrivals will be persons whose families are here and who in the initial evacuation, were separated and sent to other centers.

Sincerely,

(signed) ROY NASH  
Project Director

RLB/mk



WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

In reply, please refer to:

Manzanar, California

Project Reports  
Officer

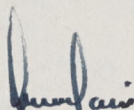
November 1, 1944

Mr. Pat Frayne  
War Relocation Authority  
461 Market Street  
Sheldon Building  
San Francisco, California

Dear Mr. Frayne:

The enclosed story is for your files  
only. The story is for release only to the  
papers indicated and I have sent it to them.

Yours truly,

  
Arch V. Davis  
Reports Officer

Enclosure

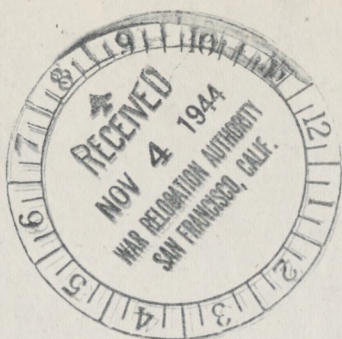
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*Drawn under 22024 2/6*

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<i>Frayne</i>
<i>11-6-44</i>
Date ans. _____
No reply nec. _____
To file _____ (NAME)







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SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.



Department of the Interior  
War Relocation Authority  
Manzanar, California  
Arch Davis  
Release # D-13

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INYO REGISTER (Bishop)

Progress-Citizen (Lone Pine)  
Inyo Independent (Independence)

MANZANAR, Calif., Nov.

--Holding passes

issued by the Western Defense Command, three honorably discharged American Soldiers of Japanese ancestry appeared in Lone Pine last Saturday. The permits, issued by the military, provided the ex-servicemen with the right of unrestricted travel.

"There will be no further commuting from this center to near-by towns for any purpose on the part of persons who are visitors at Manzanar, even though they hold a pass from the Western Defense Command", declared Project Director Ralph P. Merritt in an interview today.

"While I fully respect the permit issued by the Western Defense Command", Mr. Merritt stated, "I am taking the position that we are following the instructions of the W.R.A. director in not inducting discharged soldiers into Manzanar except under extraordinary conditions. If these former soldiers desire to come to Manzanar as visitors they must conform to the regulations of this center.

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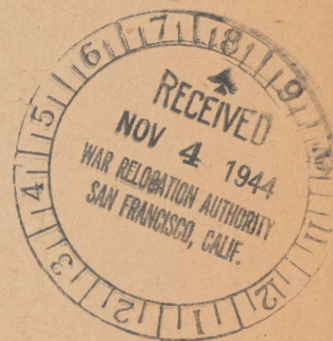


Page 2

"Among these regulations is one that prevents any person to enter or leave without a pass signed by the project director," Mr. Merritt affirmed, "and I will sign none for any person of Japanese ancestry except when such persons are leaving the Center on indefinite leave."

Mr. Merritt stated that the ex-servicemen had arrived in Manzanar by public carrier and were visiting friends and relations at the War Relocation Center. While there, he pointed out, they are paying for room and board.







[Jan. 24, 1945]

Department of the Interior  
War Relocation Authority  
Manzanar, California  
Arch Davis  
Release #26-D

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHALFANT PRESS - Inyo Register  
" Independent  
Progress-Citizen

MANZANAR, Calif., Jan. ---Memorial services were held Tuesday evening at Manzanar for Mrs. Mathilda Alch who passed away early Monday morning at the center hospital following a brief illness. Attended by appointed staff and evacuees alike the many who remembered her for her kindness, her willing helpfulness and her exuberant gaiety, paid their last respects.

Project Director Ralph P. Merritt conducted the services and expressed with quiet sincerity the sympathy and loss felt throughout the project. Mr. K. Anzai, Chairman of the Block Managers Assembly offered on behalf of the evacuees, their condolences.

A floral offering was presented by the Manzanar Appointed Staff Club. Ushers were Messrs. Ralph P. Merritt, Jr., Joseph M. Carney, Robert Solomon and Leland Bruttig.

Miss Mary Kageyama sang "Ave Maria" and Mr. Henry Kano rendered "The Lost Cord". Mr. Louis Frizzell accompanied

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Page 2

the soloists at the piano.

Mrs. Alch was stricken early Saturday morning after dressing to go to her office. When she failed to appear, Mrs. Margaret D'Ille went to her home and finding her in a serious condition called the hospital. Efforts to save her life failed and at 2:55 Monday morning Mrs. Alch passed away.

Mr. M. H. Alch, a brother living in San Francisco was notified of his sister's illness and left the bay city for Manzanar, arriving shortly after his sister had died. Arrangements for the funeral services are not announced.

Mrs. Alch joined the Welfare Staff on April 21, 1944 as Assistant Counselor where she had charge of the general welfare throughout the camp, carried the responsibilities of clothing allowances and soldiers allotments. In addition she trained family visitors and acted as assistant to Mrs. D'Ille.

Born in Korno Province, Russia and coming to this country as a child her entire adult life was devoted to helping others in the many phases of welfare work which she followed.

She was a graduate of St. Louis University where she received her L.L.B.

Leaving the University Mrs. Alch followed law for a year and with World War I entered the service of the United States Navy as Yeoman 1st Class.

---more---



War Relocation Authority  
Manzanar, California  
Arch Davis  
Release #D-26

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHALFANT PRESS

Page 3

During the years 1923 to 1926, Mrs. Alch continued her studies in Social Service work at the University of California. Joining the Oakland Probation Office she organized, developed and conducted the Desertion Bureau and dealt with the financial and social problems connected with broken homes and deserted children.

From that time on until she passed away Mrs. Alch devoted her entire life to the work of social service, holding responsible positions with relief agencies throughout the United States and in her native land of Lithuania.

Mrs. Alch was the first member of the Manzanar appointed staff to die while on duty.

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
War Relocation Authority

1031 South Broadway  
Los Angeles 15, California

Prospect 4711  
Local 100

FOR RELEASE WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1944

*Old Day  
3-10-44*  
Please  
File

*6:00 PM*

Major John F. Aiso, highest ranking Japanese American officer in the United States Army, is a former Los Angeles student who once won top honors in an oratorical contest on the Constitution, it was recalled by alumni of Hollywood High School today.

Commissioning of Aiso, 35, with the rank of major was announced by his commanding officer, Colonel Kai E. Rasmussen, at Fort Snelling, Minnesota, where the Nisei officer, recognized as ~~one of the country's~~ <sup>AN</sup> experts in international law, is on duty.

A vote of three to one elected Aiso to the student presidency of Hollywood High School, where he became manager of the debating team in 1925. He served also as president of Christian Endeavor.

In his first year in the school oratorical contests, Aiso tied for first place with a Caucasian classmate, winning on composition, while his opponent won on delivery. It made news in educational circles when the young Nisei suggested the award should go in entirety to his fellow contestant, and his opponent insisted on dividing the honor.

In his senior year, 1927, Aiso entered the national oratorical contest. The subject was "The Constitution of the United States."

Aiso won first place for Hollywood high in the area contests. Scheduled to compete in the national finals, he withdrew in place of the second-place winner because of parental worry over his scholastic standing due to overstressing of his debating activities, while at the same time suggestions emanated from some quarters that his participation was inappropriate because of his racial origin.

His fellow students insisted on Aiso's attendance at the finals in Washington, D. C., despite his withdrawal from the contest.



Faculty and student volunteers raised a fund and sent him to Washington in company with the official school contestant.

Major Aiso's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank T. Aiso, moved from Burbank with their year old son to 1408 Tamarind Avenue, Hollywood, and lived there until their evacuation in 1942 to the Manzanar War Relocation Center, where the parents are still detained.

Although his parents hear from him regularly, they last saw him in December 1941, shortly after he had married Sumi Akiyama of Westminster, Orange County. He was inducted into the army in March of that year.

Aiso was graduated from Brown University and Harvard Law School, and practiced law with a New York firm from 1932 to 1935. After graduate work in law at Chuo (cq) university, Tokio, he returned to Hollywood and continued his studies at University of Southern California. He was admitted to the California bar in 1941.

On December 15, 1943, he delivered a speech at the New York Herald-Tribune Forum. His subject was: "Japan's Military System Must Be Crushed."

Two of Major Aiso's brothers were attending Denver University prior to their induction into the army this year. They are Daniel, 25, and James, 19.

A third brother, Paul, 32, is teaching Japanese language at Harvard University. All three brothers had attended Hollywood High School, as had a sister, Mary Nagashima, who with her husband relocated from Manzanar to New York last month.

(LA-3-0'Day)

(End)



Department of the Interior  
War Relocation Authority  
Manzanar, California  
Arch Davis  
Release #D-24

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BRAWLEY NEWS

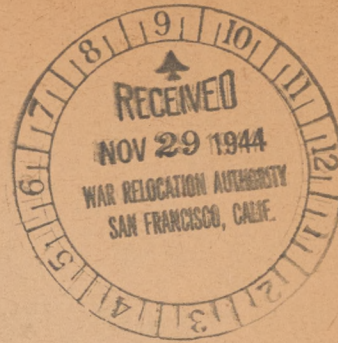
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MANZANAR, Calif., Nov. ---Technical Sergeant  
Theodore T. Tezuka, 27, licensed pharmacist formerly  
employed by a Brawley drug store was killed in action in  
France recently, according to information received here.  
Tezuka, formerly of Los Angeles, had entered the United  
States army in December of 1941.

Parents of the Japanese American soldier, Mr. and  
Mrs. Tokijiro Tezuka, left this center recently with their  
daughter Yoshiko on a short term leave to Chicago. Upon  
arrival there, they were informed of the tragedy by Mrs.  
Ruth Tezuka, wife of the soldier. A cousin, Mrs. Fumiko  
Amino is a resident here.

Tezuka received his diploma in pharmacy from the  
University of Southern California in 1940.



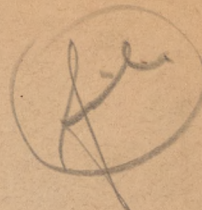




Department of the Interior  
War Relocation Authority  
Manzanar, California  
Arch Davis  
Release #D-23

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WESTWOOD HILLS PRESS  
Westwood Hills, California



216

MANZANAR, Calif., Nov. Raymond M. Kawashima, formerly of 1931 Colby Ave., West Los Angeles left here this week for Fort Douglas, Utah where he will be inducted in the United States Army.

Kawashima, who had been harvesting in Pocatello, Idaho came to Manzanar to visit his wife and son and was notified of his induction upon arrival.

A brother, Tech. Sgt. Kazuo Kawashima, is now stationed at Fort Snelling, Minn.

Before evacuation Kawashima worked as a clerk at the Roberts Public Market in Venice. In 1936 he was graduated from University High School where he was a member of the football team.



Department of the Interior  
War Relocation Authority  
Manzanar, California  
Arch Davis  
Release #D-27

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHALFANT PRESS - Inyo Register  
Inyo Independent  
Progress-Citizen

MANZANAR, Calif., Jan. ---The gates of Manzanar will swing inward on Saturday evening February 3rd, when the appointed staff welcomes residents of the Owens Valley at a social evening presented by the members of the Manzanar Staff.

Appropriately called the Valley Round-Up Dance and Party the affair will feature a modified version of a wild west thriller complete with heroine, villain and haloed hero. There will be a musical program featuring two soloists and a men's quartette. Square dancing and modern will be enjoyed and a comedy dance will round out the evening. Refreshments consisting of assorted sandwiches, cakes and coffee will be served.

"Previous open house affairs conducted by the WRA have been very successful", stated Project Director Ralph P. Herritt today, "but this occasion is not a WRA affair but an invitation to Valley residents from our staff members. I hope valley residents will join us at Manzanar to enjoy the pleasant evening planned for them by the appointed staff."



Department of the Interior

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

War Relocation Authority  
Manzanar, California  
Arch Davis  
Release #D-27

Chalfant Press

Page 2

Tickets for the gala evening are available to valley residents and will be sold at fifty cents each by Mr. Joseph Winchester of Lone Pine, Miss Helen Gunn of Independence and Mr. and Mrs. David Bromley of Bishop. Mail orders will be filled by Mr. Cecil Pritchett, of Manzanar.

Costumes are optional but it is hoped that many will come in typical western round-up clothes.

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