

BRIEF ACCOUNTS OF OUR VISITS TO ALL TEN  
JAPANESE AMERICAN RELOCATION CENTERS OF WORLD WAR II

# TEN VISITS

by

FRANK AND JOANNE IRITANI

PRINTED BY BLUEPRINT SERVICE CO.

BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA

September, 1992

# table of contents

Introduction - All Ten Relocation Centers Visited .....	1
"Instructions to All Persons of Japanese Ancestry" .....	2
List of Various Types Detention Centers with Map .....	3
Amache, Colorado (directions, map sketch & photos) .....	4
Japanese American Citizens Creed	
Gila River, Arizona .....	5
"The American Promise"	
Heart Mountain, Wyoming .. (Redress) .....	6
Jerome, Arkansas .. (Japan - U.S. Relations) .....	7
Manzanar, California .....	8
Minidoka, Idaho .....	9
Resistance to Injustice	
Poston, Arizona .. (An Unbelievable Story) .....	10
Rohwer, Arkansas .....	11
Topaz, Utah .. (Go for Broke) .....	12
Tule Lake, California .....	13
The Japanese Canadian Experience .....	14
Human Rights and Human Relations .....	15
Becoming a World Citizen .....	16
About the Authors .....	17

## INTRODUCTION

This is a revised, brief account with directions, sketch maps and photos of **OUR VISITS TO ALL TEN JAPANESE AMERICAN RELOCATION CENTERS**. Most of the visits were made in late 1989, but we have revisited many sites since and Manzanar many times. We hope "Ten Visits" would be helpful to those visiting these historical sites for the first time. Many are very difficult to find even after receiving directions. The regular road map should be used along with the sketch map and instructions in this booklet. John Tonai, young photographer of Greeley, Colorado, also visited all ten camps recently.

A booklet like this could also be helpful to those seeking a quick overview of the Japanese American concentration camp story. There are two periodicals which published very brief overviews of the ten camps. "A Pilgrimage Guide to American Concentration Camps" (two tabloid pages) appeared in the *Pacific Citizen* (Japanese American Citizen League weekly) of December 21-28, 1979. "Overview of 10 Japanese American World War II Camps" (two thirds page) appeared in the Los Angeles *Rafu Shimpo* Daily (Japanese American vernacular) of February 14, 1992.

February 19, 1992 was the 50th Anniversary of Order #9066 which forced the evacuation of 110,000 Japanese Americans, mostly U.S. citizens from their West Coast homes, businesses and farms. We mention a few of the many pilgrimages, reunions, special exhibits and other 50th anniversary events which we have managed to attend. Internees of all the ten camps have something scheduled for 1992, and even extending into 1993. Topaz plans a pilgrimage next year and the Japanese American National Museum has an on-going program. Fred Oshima writes in the San Francisco *Nichi Bei Times* (June 4, 1992) "1992 is the year of reunions to end all reunions...for the proud, resourceful Nisei, these reunions will be an opportunity to meet again, reminisce, and for all intents and purposes, probably will be the last organized mass hurrah of their fractured, enduring lives."

Of the many special camp exhibits this year throughout the country, we managed to see those in Los Angeles, Seattle, Sacramento and Fresno. The \$24 million Japanese American National Museum in Little Tokyo, Los Angeles had a Grand Opening April 30, 1992 and most of its exhibits are about the Internment experience. "Executive Order 9066" is a fine Minidoka Camp exhibit sponsored by Seattle Wing Luke Museum, February-August, 1992. "Country Voices-Three Generations of Japanese American Farming including Internment" is at the Fresno Metropolitan Museum, May-November, 1992. You are encouraged to see these interesting and historical exhibits before the public showing closes or when they start traveling around the country.

The bottom line of all this is progress toward better human relations. Of course, we all hope, denial of any person's rights and another mass evacuation and forced detention will never happen again. Our message is the practice and promotion of "world citizenship" where mutual respect and equal treatment is an integral aspect of our daily lives.

A warm "arigato" (thank you) to many people who helped with this project including Terry and Sandy at Blueprint Service Co.

Frank & Joanne Iritani  
Bakersfield, California  
September, 1992.

**WESTERN DEFENSE COMMAND AND FOURTH ARMY  
WARTIME CIVIL CONTROL ADMINISTRATION**

2

Presidio of San Francisco, California

May 3, 1942

**INSTRUCTIONS  
TO ALL PERSONS OF  
JAPANESE  
ANCESTRY**

**Living in the Following Area:**

All of that portion of the County of Alameda, State of California, within the boundary beginning at the point where the southerly limits of the City of Oakland meet San Francisco Bay; thence easterly and following the southerly limits of said city to U. S. Highway No. 50; thence southerly and easterly on said Highway No. 50 to its intersection with California State Highway No. 21; thence southerly on said Highway No. 21 to its intersection, at or near Warm Springs, with California State Highway No. 17; thence southerly on said Highway No. 17 to the Alameda-Santa Clara County line; thence westerly and following said county line to San Francisco Bay; thence northerly, and following the shoreline of San Francisco Bay to the point of beginning.

Pursuant to the provisions of Civilian Exclusion Order No. 34, this Headquarters, dated May 3, 1942, all persons of Japanese ancestry, both alien and non-alien, will be evacuated from the above area by 12 o'clock noon, P. W. T., Saturday, May 9, 1942.

No Japanese person living in the above area will be permitted to change residence after 12 o'clock noon, P. W. T., Sunday, May 3, 1942, without obtaining special permission from the representative of the Commanding General, Northern California Sector, at the Civil Control Station located at:

920 - "C" Street,  
Hayward, California.

Such permits will only be granted for the purpose of uniting members of a family, or in cases of grave emergency.

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

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

**The Following Instructions Must Be Observed:**

1. A responsible member of each family, preferably the head of the family, or the person in whose name most of the property is held, and each individual living alone, will report to the Civil Control Station to receive further instructions. This must be done between 8:00 A. M. and 5:00 P. M. on Monday, May 4, 1942, or between 8:00 A. M. and 5:00 P. M. on Tuesday, May 5, 1942.
2. Evacuees must carry with them on departure for the Assembly Center, the following property:
  - (a) Bedding and linens (no mattress) for each member of the family;
  - (b) Toilet articles for each member of the family;
  - (c) Extra clothing for each member of the family;
  - (d) Sufficient knives, forks, spoons, plates, bowls and cups for each member of the family;
  - (e) Essential personal effects for each member of the family.

All items carried will be securely packaged, tied and plainly marked with the name of the owner and numbered in accordance with instructions obtained at the Civil Control Station. The size and number of packages is limited to that which can be carried by the individual or family group.

3. No pets of any kind will be permitted.
4. No personal items and no household goods will be shipped to the Assembly Center.
5. The United States Government through its agencies will provide for the storage, at the sole risk of the owner, of the more substantial household items, such as iceboxes, washing machines, pianos and other heavy furniture. Cooking utensils and other small items will be accepted for storage if crated, packed and plainly marked with the name and address of the owner. Only one name and address will be used by a given family.
6. Each family, and individual living alone, will be furnished transportation to the Assembly Center or will be authorized to travel by private automobile in a supervised group. All instructions pertaining to the movement will be obtained at the Civil Control Station.

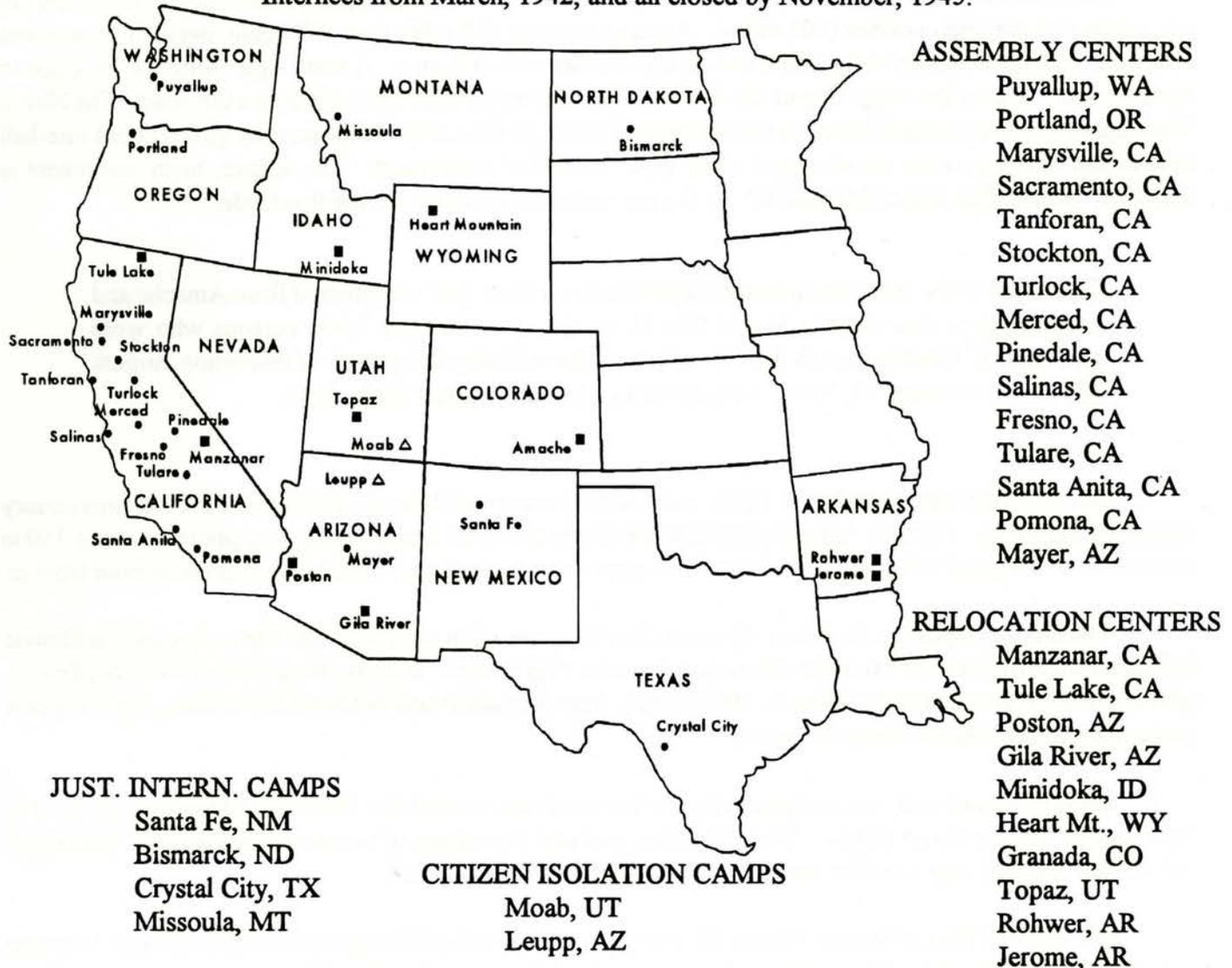
**Go to the Civil Control Station between the hours of 8:00 A. M. and 5:00 P. M., Monday, May 4, 1942, or between the hours of 8:00 A. M. and 5:00 P. M., Tuesday, May 5, 1942, to receive further instructions.**

J. L. DeWITT  
Lieutenant General, U. S. Army  
Commanding

## Accounts of visits to all ten Japanese American Relocation Centers

# TEN VISITS

PERMANENT DETENTION CAMPS - called Relocation Centers by the government; housing Internees from March, 1942, and all closed by November, 1945.



ASSEMBLY CENTERS - temporary detention camps in operation from late March, 1942 to about middle of October, 1942, where Internee families were kept until relocated to more permanent detention camps called Relocation Centers.

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT INTERNMENT CAMPS - for non-citizens which included Kibei, Buddhist ministers, newspaper people and other community leaders.

CITIZEN ISOLATION CAMPS - War Relocation Authority Penal Colonies for United States citizens

**AMACHE, (GRANADA) COLORADO**

(visited 7-4-89, 5-25-92)

Opened August 27, 1942; closed October 15, 1945. Peak population 7,318.

Origin of Internees: Northern California coast, West Sacramento Valley, Northern San Joaquin Valley, Los Angeles.

From Denver, there are two routes to Lamar - via scenic Colorado Springs and Pueblo (230 miles) or via Limon and the open prairies (203 miles). Amache is about 130 miles east of Pueblo, between Lamar and Granada, with the entrance to the camp site about 10 miles east of Lamar. A small sign "Amache" is nailed to a cottonwood tree on the south side of the highway. Drive in about one-half mile over a dirt road. The Nueva Vista Labor Camp is toward the left in the distance. Turn right for a short distance, then go left about one-half mile to the cemetery area consisting of a ten foot "I-Rei-To" monument. The square, main monument is inscribed "AMACHE REMEMBERED" at the top with the following on the front side:

Dedicated to the thirty one patriotic Japanese Americans who volunteered from Amache and dutifully gave their lives in World War II; to the approximately 7,000 persons who were relocated at Amache and to the 120 who died there during this period of relocation August 27, 1942 - October 14, 1945. Sponsored by Denver Optimist Club, 1983.

Our first visit was made July 4, 1989, and a second was made May 23, 1992 with the 50th Anniversary Amache Pilgrimage. The Los Angeles *Rafu Shimpo* Daily of 6-6-92 had a large group photo of about 150 in attendance and a good write up. A bus load of 20 came from Livingston, CA and two bus loads from Denver.

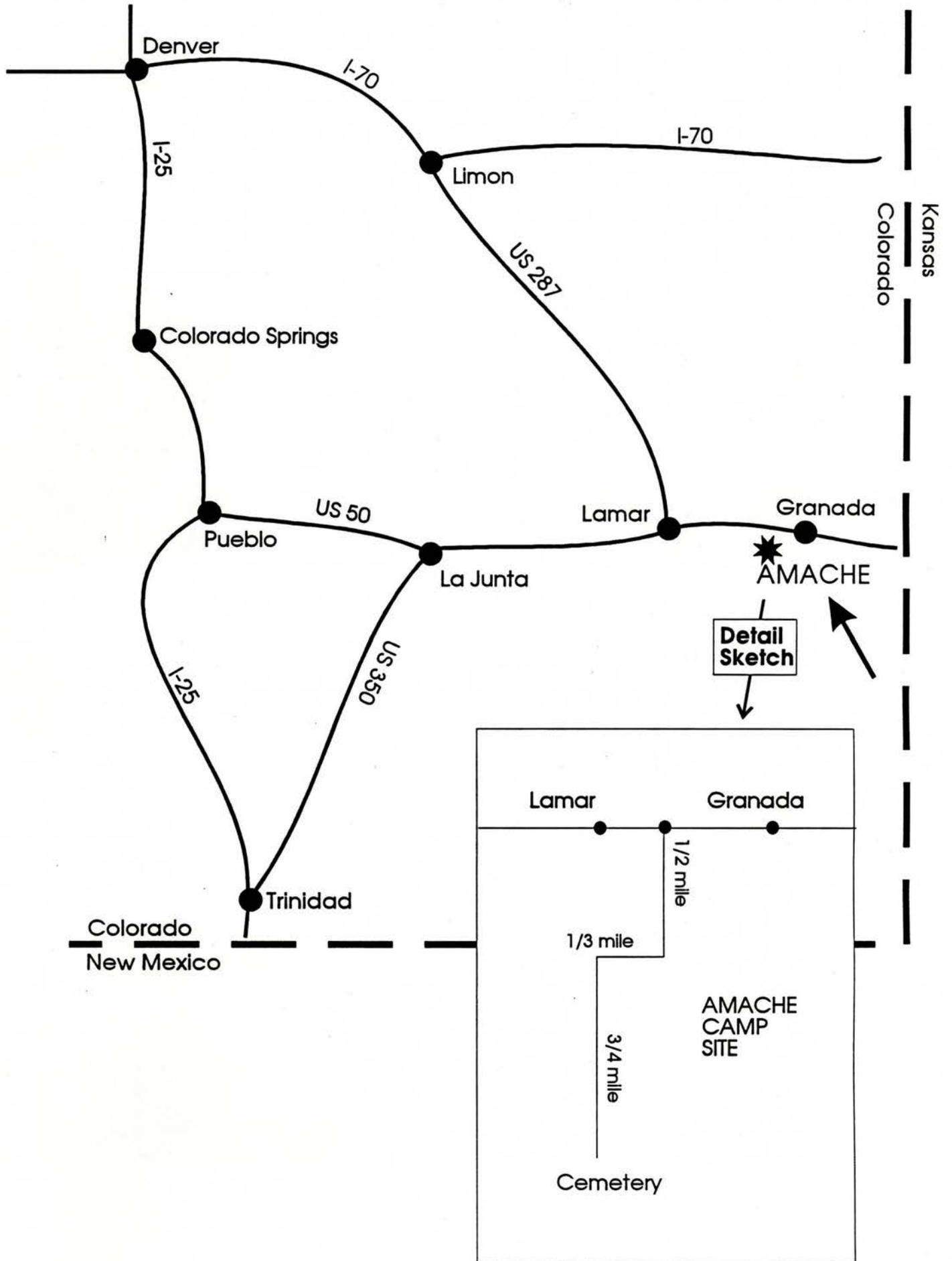
The Denver Japanese American Optimist Club in cooperation with Simpson Methodist and the Denver TriState Buddhist Churches sponsor the annual Amache Pilgrimages. Usually, the program consists of clean-up, memorial service and potluck/lunch. Periodically, improvements/repairs are made including installing new grave markers as identifications are made.

On our second visit, we stopped in Lamar for lunch and viewed the Veterans Monument in front of the Prowers County Court House. The inscription includes the names of twenty seven Japanese Americans "who made the supreme sacrifice serving their country in World War II".

The Denver Post of Sunday March 12, 1992, page 12A, had a full page article about several Internees now residents of Denver, with accompanying photos depicting Amache camp life.

Dan Iritani, Denver Optimist Club member states attempts are being made to bring state/federal historical status to Amache.

# AMACHE (Granada) Colorado





"Amache Remembered" Pilgrimage 5-23-92



Amache "I-Rei-To" Cenotaph



### **JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE CREED**

“I am proud that I am an American citizen of Japanese ancestry, for my very background makes me appreciate more fully the wonderful advantages of this nation. I believe in her institutions, ideals and traditions; I glory in her heritage; I boast of her history; I trust in her future. She has granted me liberties and opportunities such as no individual enjoys in this world today. She has given me an education befitting kings. She has entrusted me with the responsibilities of the franchise. She has permitted me to build a home, to earn a livelihood, to worship, think, speak and act as I please — as a free man equal to every other man.

“Although some individuals may discriminate against me, I shall never become bitter or lose faith, for I know that such persons are not representative of the majority of the American people. True, I shall do all in my power to discourage such practices, but I shall do it in the American way; above-board, in the open, through courts of law, by education, by proving myself to be worthy of equal treatment and consideration. I am firm in my belief that American sportsmanship and attitude of fair play will judge citizenship and patriotism on the basis of action and achievement, and not on the basis of physical characteristics.

“Because I believe in America, and I trust she believes in me, and because I have received innumerable benefits from her, I pledge myself to do honor to her at all times and in all places; to support her Constitution; to obey her laws; to respect her flag; to defend her against all enemies, foreign or domestic; to actively assume my duties and obligations as a citizen, cheerfully and without any reservations whatsoever, in the hope that I may become a better American in a greater America.”

**MIKE M. MASAOKA, 1915 - 1991**

**GILA RIVER, ARIZONA**

(visited 10-26-89)

Opened July 20, 1942; closed November 10, 1945. Peak Population 13,348

Origin of Internees: Sacramento River Delta, Fresno County, Los Angeles area.

Gila River Center was very difficult to locate. There are two camps: Butte Camp 2 and four miles east, Canal Camp 1. In 1989, we had no specific directions to Gila, and assumed it to be a single camp site. There were no signs nor landmarks for reference which had been helpful in locating other internment camp sites. We did reach a camp site which we later learned was Butte Camp 2.

From Phoenix, take I-10 south east toward Tucson about 30 miles to Exit 175. To the west of Exit 175 on Casa Blanca Rd is the Gila River Indian Arts & Crafts Center. Go due south about 3 miles to a four-corner intersection with tanks and storage shelters. Turn west and go another 3 miles. To the right is a water tank cement foundation and a semi-circular skeleton-like cement "War Memorial" monument atop a knoll. At the base of the monument, a metal benchmark inscription reads "Army Corps Engr". Graffiti is scribbled on all the columns, including "Jap Camp". Many cement slab foundations were seen among the tall weeds and shrubs below the knoll.

After the visit to Gila, we learned of the existence of Canal Camp 1, and contacted various people for more specific directions to both camp sites. George Kihara, Davis, CA, who visited Butte Camp 2 in April, 1992 produced the attached sketch map and also, has an aerial view of the site.

Much factual information is in the mimeographed anniversary booklets "A Year at Gila" dated July 20, 1943, and "Second Year at Gila" dated July 20, 1944. Contents include block plan and site location sketches including the Gila River and So. Pacific Railroad for both camps, description of housing, mess halls, community activities, administration, Red Cross, crops, schools, religious activities, sports, the hospital and resettlement. The booklets appeared to be produced by the "Reports Office" of the Administration.

A first reunion for all the Gila River Center Internees is scheduled for October 3-4, 1992, in Phoenix, Arizona.

The following is a portion of the introduction message by L.H. Bennett, Project Director, in the 1943 book:

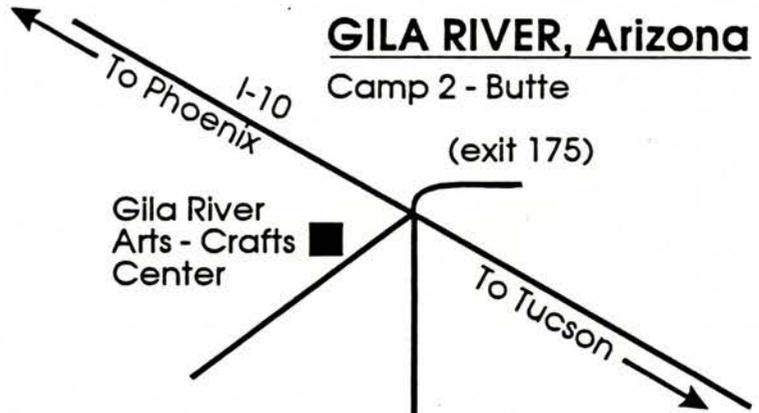
Scarcely more than a year ago sage, sand, and mesquite reigned silent and alone where the fourth largest community in this state now stands. One year ago, you began to arrive at Gila River Relocation Center in the midst of a strange and unhappy adventure. Race was all you had in common. Elsewhere you were of all conditions and walks of life--alien and citizen, rich and poor, young and old, brave and afraid, strong and weak,.....

Today our population is declining as many leave for a new scene, a fresh start, a hopeful future on the "outside". May you...so work and conduct yourselves that you may be proud of your record and earn that sovereign power which self-knowledge, self-respect, and self-control so surely bring....

# GILA RIVER, Arizona

Camp 2 - Butte

(exit 175)



Gila River Arts - Crafts Center ■

approx. 3 miles

Gila River Farms Headquarters ■

■ tanks

storage shelters

● Water Tank

BUTTE CAMP

Monument

● Water Tank



sketch map by:  
George M. Kihara  
Davis, CA  
April, 1992



Water tank (left) and Monument (right)  
on knoll overlooking Butte Camp 2



Remains (rear portion) of Gila River  
Honor Roll Monument

---

# THE AMERICAN PROMISE

---

*By the President of the United States of America*

## **A Proclamation**

In this Bicentennial Year, we are commemorating the anniversary dates of many of the great events in American history. An honest reckoning, however, must include a recognition of our national mistakes as well as our national achievements. Learning from our mistakes is not pleasant, but as a great philosopher once admonished, we must do so if we want to avoid repeating them.

February 19th is the anniversary of a sad day in American history. It was on that date in 1942, in the midst of the response to the hostilities that began on December 7, 1941, that Executive Order No. 9066 was issued, subsequently enforced by the criminal penalties of a statute enacted March 21, 1942, resulting in the uprooting of loyal Americans. Over one hundred thousand persons of Japanese ancestry were removed from their homes, detained in special camps, and eventually relocated.

The tremendous effort by the War Relocation Authority and concerned Americans for the welfare of these Japanese-Americans may add perspective to that story, but it does not erase the setback to fundamental American principles. Fortunately, the Japanese-American community in Hawaii was spared the indignities suffered by those on our mainland.

We now know what we should have known then—not only was that evacuation wrong, but Japanese-Americans were and are loyal Americans. On the battlefield and at home, Japanese-Americans—names like Hamada, Mitsumori, Marimoto, Noguchi, Yamasaki, Kido, Munemori and Miyamura—have been and continue to be written in our history for the sacrifices and the contributions they have made to the well-being and security of this, our common Nation.

The Executive order that was issued on February 19, 1942, was for the sole purpose of prosecuting the war with the Axis Powers, and ceased to be effective with the end of those hostilities. Because there was no formal statement of its termination, however, there is concern among many Japanese-Americans that there may yet be some life in that obsolete document. I think it appropriate, in this our Bicentennial Year, to remove all doubt on that matter, and to make clear our commitment in the future.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GERALD R. FORD, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim that all the authority conferred by Executive Order No. 9066 terminated upon the issuance of Proclamation No. 2714, which formally proclaimed the cessation of the hostilities of World War II on December 31, 1946.

I call upon the American people to affirm with me this American Promise—that we have learned from the tragedy of that long-ago experience forever to treasure liberty and justice for each individual American, and resolve that this kind of action shall never again be repeated.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this nineteenth day of February in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred seventy-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundredth.

*Gerald R. Ford*

**HEART MOUNTAIN, WYOMING**

(visited 8-4-89)

Opened Aug. 12, 1942; closed Nov. 10, 1945. Peak population 10,767.

Origin of Internees: Santa Clara County, Los Angeles, Central Washington.

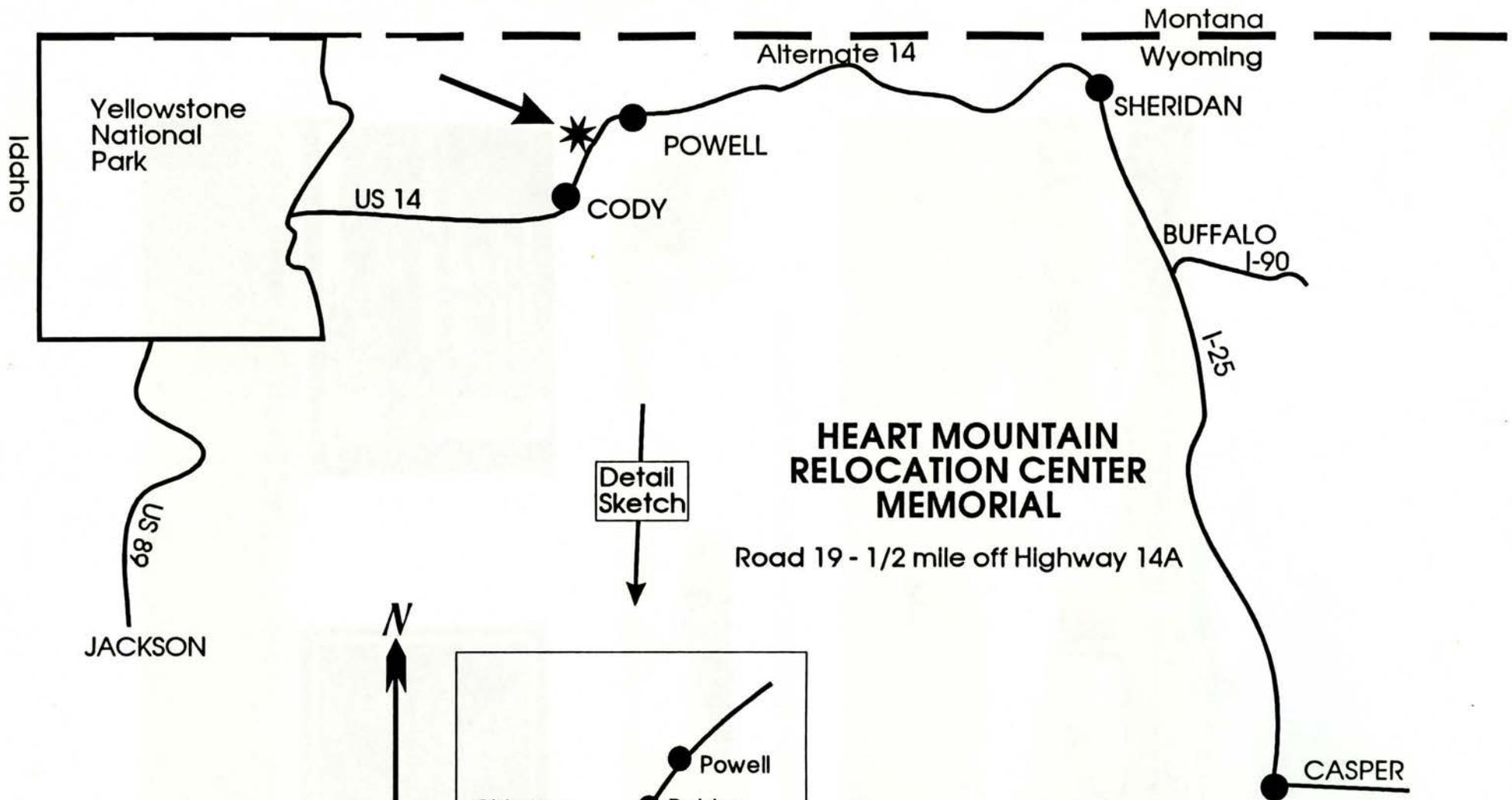
This site is about sixty miles east of Yellowstone National Park in the N.W. corner of Wyoming, between Cody and Powell on Alternate Road #14. The two landmarks, a tall smokestack and the peak of Heart Mountain, can be seen from the road as you look north. Turn north at Road 19 and go a short distance to the memorial area. Heart Mountain is designated on the National Register of Historic Places as Wyoming #226 and consists of four plaques and a Visitor Registering Post. One plaque reads:

"September, 1985, this memorial plaque is dedicated to the more than six hundred Internees who left Heart Mountain to serve in the U.S. Armed Forces during WW II, and to the memory of the twenty two who gave their lives for our country." (names and ranks listed).

Another plaque shows a detailed view of the site plan and a pictorial view of the camp. These memorials came into being largely through the leadership of Chester and Mary Blackburn of nearby Ralston, Wyoming, and Bill Hosokawa of Denver, who was the speaker at the dedication on July 2, 1978. "Winter in My Soul" is a fine video of Heart Mountain Relocation Center produced by KTWO-TV, Casper, Wyoming. In November, 1942. Japanese American hospital workers walked out over discrimination in pay as compared to Caucasian workers. Sixty three draft resisters were convicted in July, 1944 and sentenced to three years in prison (Los Angeles *Rafu Shimpō*, 2-14-92). Heart Mountain Reunion IV is planned for September 11-13, 1992 at Sea-Tac Red Lion Hotel, Seattle. Added attractions are an Alaska Cruise and a Canadian Rockies Tour. Toshi Terayama reports over 1,000 reservations have been received.

**REDRESS**

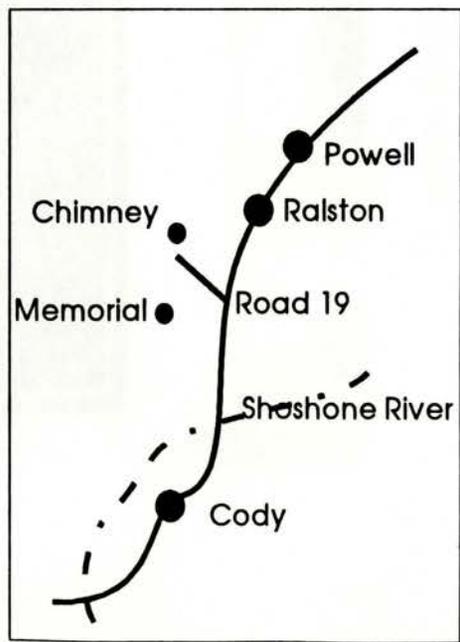
"The Congress apologizes on behalf of the Nation". This simple, yet eloquent statement from the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 expresses an admission of wrong doing and signifies a final step in repairing an injury to a group of people and to the principles of a nation. For the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) the journey to the Presidential signing of the Redress bill began in earnest in 1978. In this pursuit, JACL became the chief proponent for the establishment of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians. Beginning in 1983, Redress legislation incorporating the recommendation of the Commission was introduced in three separate sessions of Congress. After successful passage of the Redress Bill HR 442, Presidential signature was secured on August 10, 1988. The National Coalition for Redress/Reparations (NCRP) also helped in many ways to secure passage of 442.



**HEART MOUNTAIN  
RELOCATION CENTER  
MEMORIAL**

Road 19 - 1/2 mile off Highway 14A

Detail Sketch





Heart Mountain Memorial Plaques





## HEART MOUNTAIN RELOCATION CENTER

### Camp Construction

*June 8 to August 10, 1942*

#### Evacuee Section:

468 barracks, 120' x 20'  
20 barracks blocks  
Six rooms per barracks from  
16' x 20' to 24' x 20'  
Two laundry-toilet buildings per block  
Two auxiliary buildings 100' x 20' per  
block, all with black tar paper  
exteriors.  
High school-frame construction with  
Comp.-asphalt shingles  
One fire station.

**Camp Population: 10,767**

#### Administrative Section:

Eight office buildings  
One recreation hall  
One mess hall  
150-bed hospital  
Sewage treatment plant  
Water treatment plant  
Power station  
Several warehouses  
Several staff apartments  
Service Honor Roll

### Camp Operation

*August 12, 1942 to November 15, 1945*

#### Administrative Staff:

200 employees  
Services offered – legal, financial, relo-  
cation, community management,  
internal operations, camp reports.

#### Military Police Area:

U.S. 331st Escort Guard  
Headquarters for 124 soldiers, three  
officers  
MP's manned nine guard towers with  
high beam search lights, constructed  
barbed wire fence around the camp.

from Heart Mountain Camp Tourist leaflet

## JEROME, ARKANSAS

(visited 11-4-89)

Opened October 6, 1942; closed June 30, 1944. Peak population 8,497

Origin of Internees: Central San Joaquin Valley, San Pedro Bay area

Jerome and Rohwer are in southeast Arkansas and are the easternmost of the ten Relocation Centers. Jerome is about 115 miles southeast of Little Rock on Highway #165. Going north through the town of Jerome, notice the grain elevators on the left side of the road. In the distance to the right, a water tank and smokestack sit in the field which was the actual camp site.

We met a farmer, John E. Ellington, who was born here 76 years ago, and grows rice, hay, milo, and soy beans on 1350 acres with his son. His hay sheds rest on cement foundations of the camp barracks. The area is swampland (the Mississippi River is close by), and Mr. Ellington calls himself a "Swampman". He mentioned that after the camp was closed in June 1944, and the Internees moved to Camp Rohwer, German POW's were brought into the barracks at Jerome.

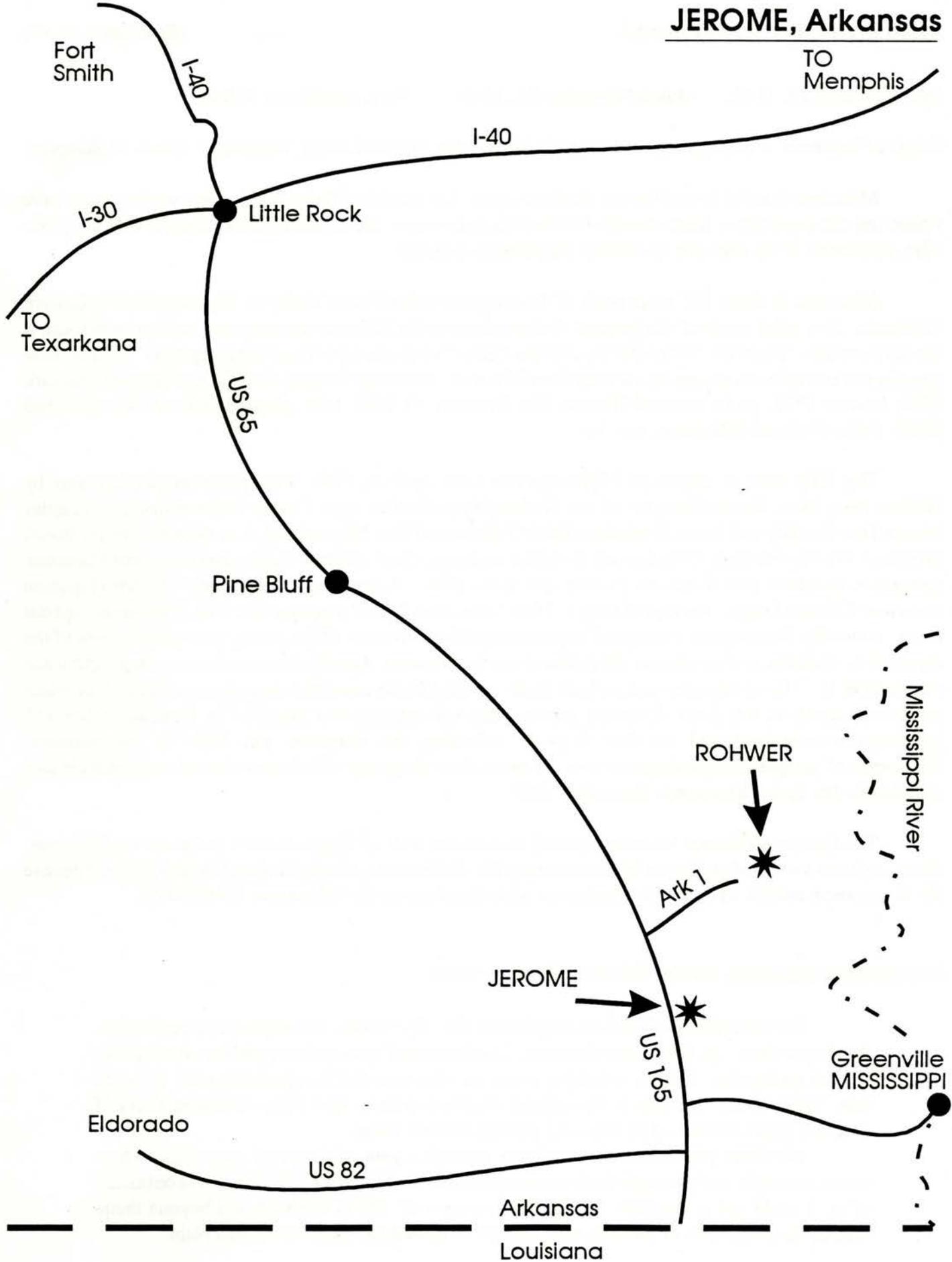
The Rohwer-Jerome Restoration Project was started by the Midwest District Council of the Japanese American Citizens League. Donated funds were used to restore the deteriorating monuments, beautify the cemetery, place a historical plaque at the site, hold a memorial dedication service, and begin a perpetual care fund. A 10-foot granite monument was completed and dedicated at the Jerome camp site to remember those internees, according to Nick Katsuki, Gardena, CA. Completion of the project was celebrated with a Memorial Program, and Monument Dedication on May 26, 1992.

## U. S. - JAPAN RELATIONS

Today, U.S. - Japan trade relations are tense. The following prophetic words written in 1978 are from the book Thirty Five Years in the Frying Pan by Bill Hosokawa, p. 248.

"In a great many respects the Nisei have "made it". But when the chips are down, when U.S. - Japanese relations become strained as they are likely to be in the long run, when political passions run high, when power is at stake, the old animosities can be expected to surface to our detriment."

# JEROME, Arkansas



## MANZANAR, CALIFORNIA

(first visit 4-30-89)

Opened March 21, 1942; closed November 21, 1945. Peak population 10,046

Origin of Internees: Los Angeles, San Fernando Valley, San Joaquin County, Bainbridge Island, Washington.

Manzanar was the first of the ten camps to open. It is closest to Bakersfield where we live so we have visited this site many times, most recently for the 50th Anniversary and 23rd annual Pilgrimage April 25, 1992. Also, Manzanar is the only one to conduct pilgrimages annually.

Manzanar is about 225 miles north of Los Angeles in the Owens Valley on Highway #395 in Eastern California. Five miles south of the town of Independence is the Internee cemetery and another mile south is the old camp site. There are "Manzanar Relocation Center" roadside signs along Highway #395, and the stone guardhouse entrance can be seen on the west side of the road. Manzanar became a California Historic Landmark #850, January 1972, and a National Historic Site, February 19, 1992 with planned tie-in to the established Death Valley National Monument near by.

The 23rd Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage was held, April 25, 1992 with program participation by William Penn Mott, former Director of the National Park Service, Inyo County Supervisors, Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley and Council members Ruth Galanter and Zev Yaroslavsky, Los Angeles School Board President, Warren Furutani, Christian and Buddhist ministers, Obon dancers, Taiko drummers, and Manzanar committee members Sue Kunitomi Embrey and Rose Ochi. According to the *Pacific Citizen* (Japanese American Citizens League weekly) of May 1, 1992 "more than 2,000" attended this 50th Anniversary special event. Annually, the program is designed to promote public awareness of the history and contributions of the Japanese in America, and to educate the public about the Japanese American concentration camp experience during WW II. The ceremonies and potluck lunch are held at the cemetery area where a fifteen foot white monument stands in the midst of several graves. The tall structure has inscribed in Japanese "I-Rei-To" (cenotaph or monument) and the date "8-14-43" indicating the structure was built by the Internees. Thousands of people have participated over the years since the group of 150 drove by car and bus from Los Angeles for the first pilgrimage in December 1969.

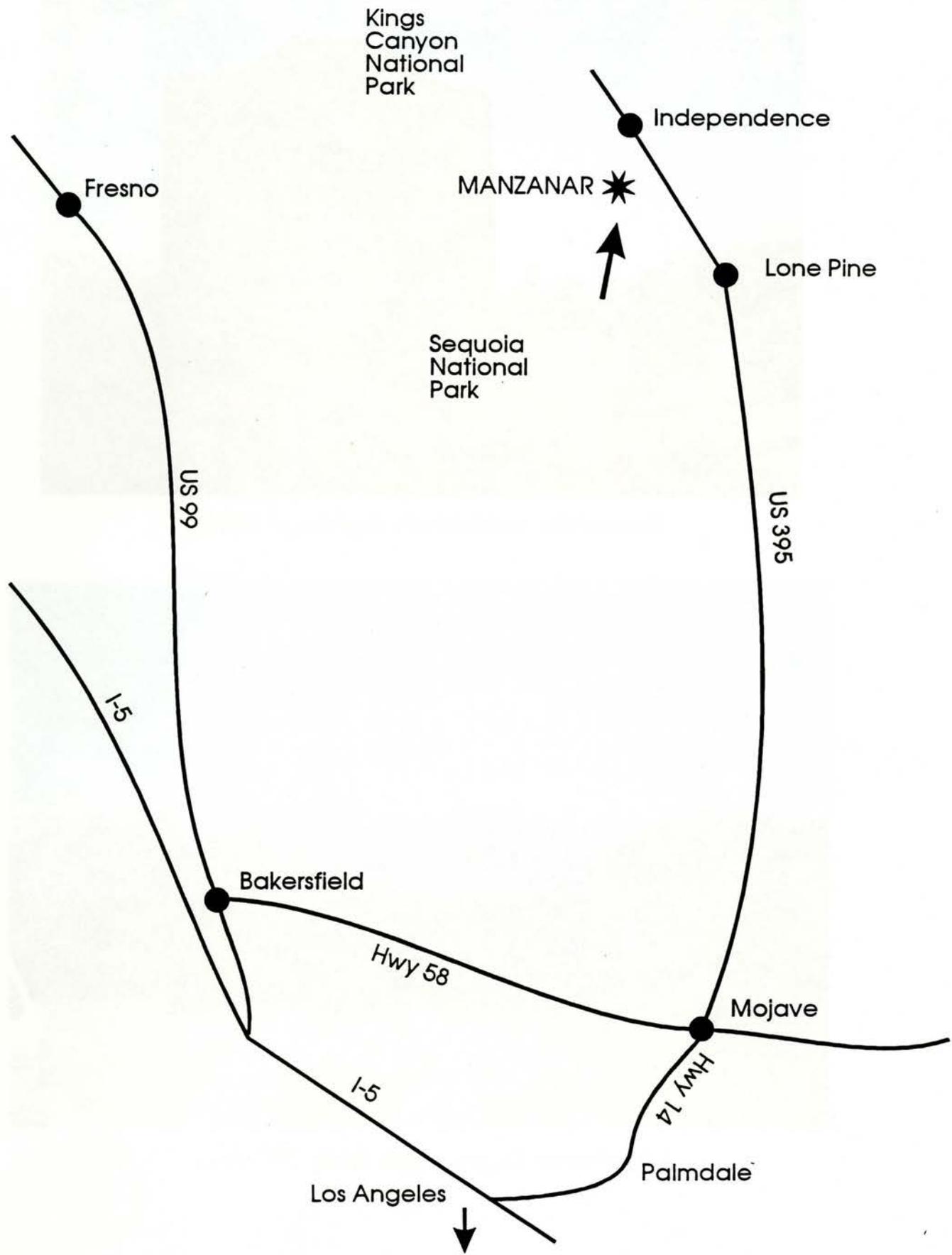
The Eastern California Museum, located two blocks west of Highway #395 in the town of Independence, includes a room of exhibits of Manzanar camp life. Shi Nomura, Garden Grove, CA is largely responsible for the museum exhibit and plans for expansion with donations to the "Manzanar Trust Fund".

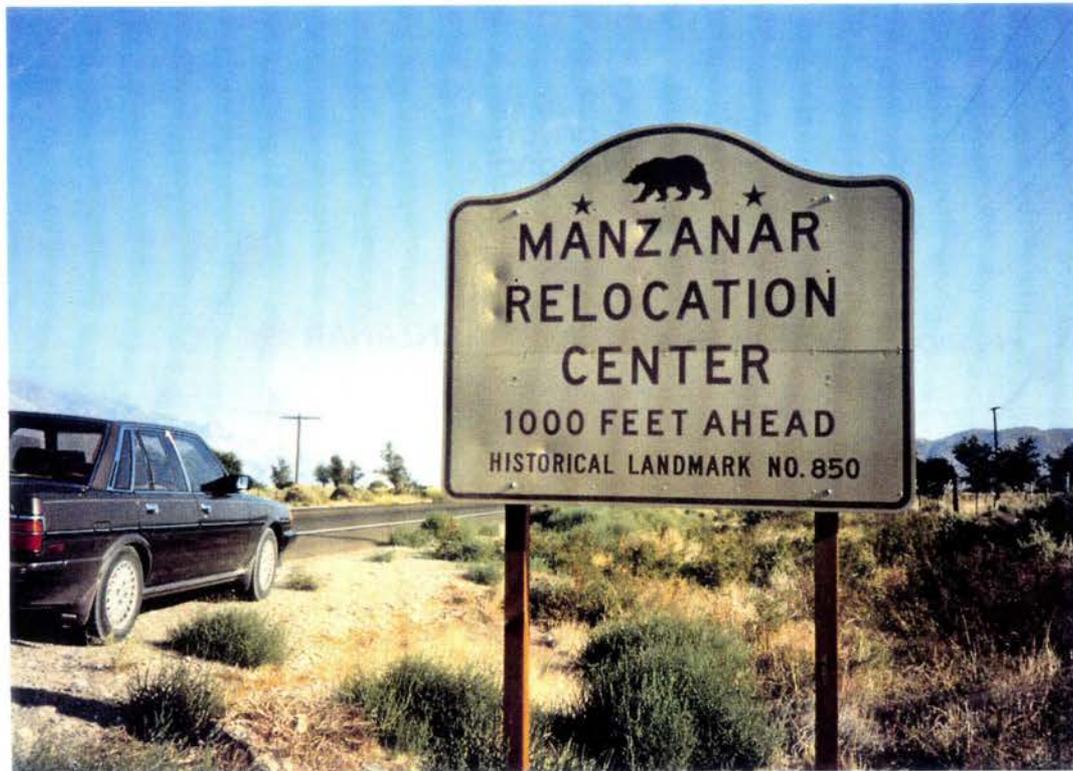
In Farewell to Manzanar, Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston wrote:

We rode (the bus from Los Angeles) all day. By the time we reached our destination, the shades were up. It was late afternoon. The first thing I saw a yellow swirl across a blurred, reddish setting sun. The bus was being pelted by what sounded like spattering rain. It wasn't rain. This was my first look at something I would soon know very well, a billowing flurry of dust and sand churned up by the wind through Owens Valley.

We drove past a barbed-wire fence, through a gate, and into an open space where trunks and sacks and packages had been dumped from the baggage trucks that drove out ahead of us. I could see a few tents set up, the first rows of black barracks, and beyond them, blurred by sand, rows of barracks that seemed to spread for miles across this plain....

MANZANAR, California





Roadside marker on Highway #395



Manzanar Pilgrimage, May 23, 1992



Manzanar "I-Rei-To" cenotaph and Cemetery



Manzanar exhibit, Eastern California Museum, Independence

**MINIDOKA, IDAHO**

(visited 8-3-89, 5-26-90)

Opened August 10, 1942; closed October 28, 1945. Peak population 9,397.

Origin of Internees: Seattle and Pierce County, Washington; Portland and Northwestern Oregon

According to the Idaho highway map, Minidoka town is some sixty miles east of the actual camp site. After asking at several farm homes and after several hours of driving we finally located the camp site between Jerome and Eden on Highway #25, north of Twin Falls and I-84 in southern Idaho. There is a large "HUNT" sign on the corner of Highway #25 and Hunt Road.

On our first visit in 1989, we saw the ruins of a stone wall, a chimney of a guardhouse, and a large wooden sign with the following inscription:

**THE MINIDOKA RELOCATION CENTER**

This is the site of the Minidoka Relocation Center, one of ten American concentration camps established in World War II to incarcerate the 110,000 Americans of Japanese descent living in coastal regions of our Pacific states. Victims of war time hysteria, these people, two-thirds of whom were United States citizens, lived a bleak, humiliating life in tarpaper barracks behind barbed wire and under armed guard.

May these camps serve to remind us what can happen when other factors supersede the Constitutional rights guaranteed to all citizens and aliens living in this country.

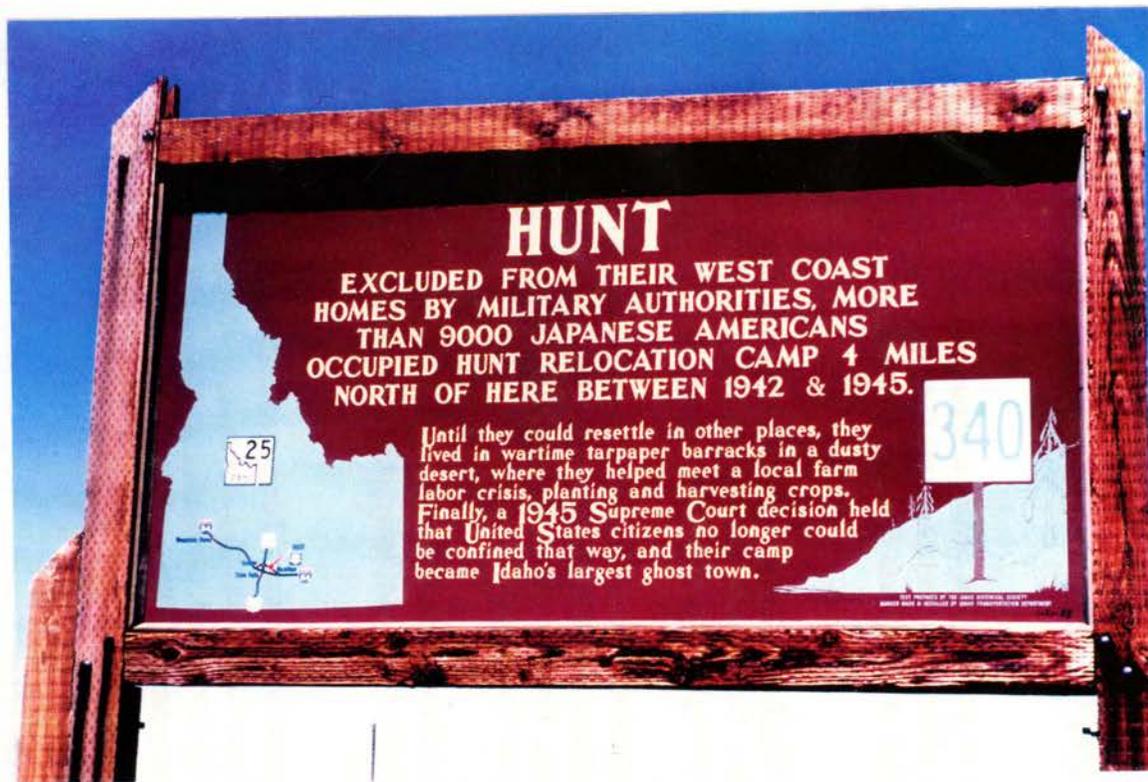
We visited Minidoka a second time on May 26, 1990 for the Memorial Dedication - a part of the Idaho State Centennial Project. The Monument consists of four plaques:

1. Minidoka Relocation Center - May 26, 1990
2. A plaque declaring this property has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places by the U.S. Department of Interior
3. A site plan map with a short history of Minidoka
4. A Honor Roll of seventy three men from the camp who died in the service of their country in World War II

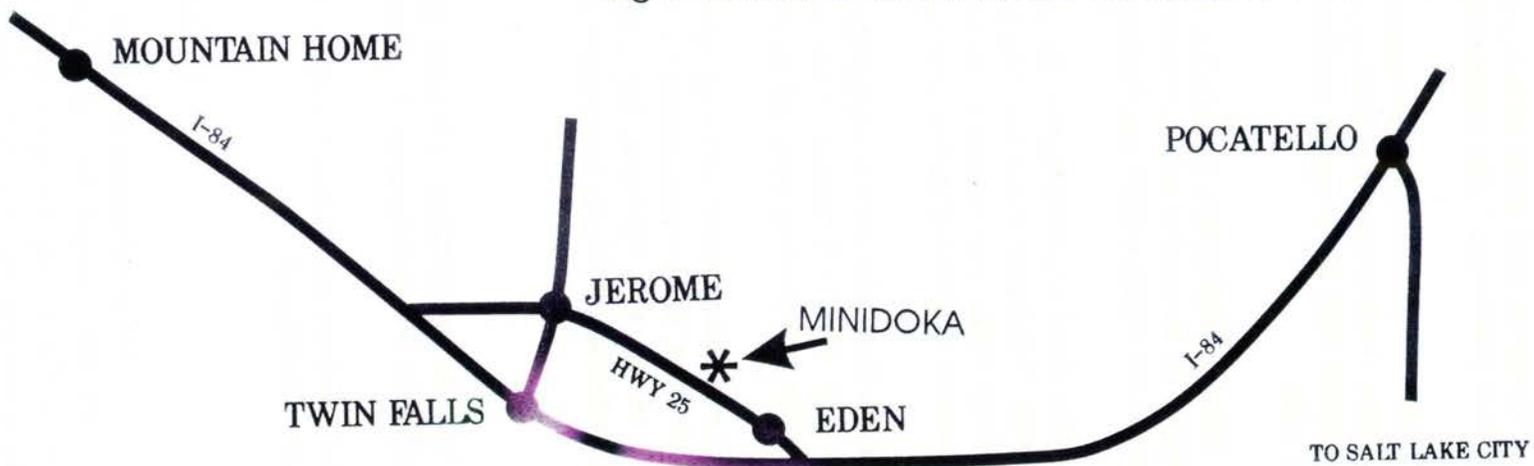
The June 8, 1990 issue of the Los Angeles Rafu Shimpo has a long writeup including photos of this May 26 event.

While visiting relatives in Seattle in August 1992, we viewed an impressive Internment exhibit at the Wing Luke Asian Museum. This six-month exhibit (ending August, 1992) titled, "Executive Order 9066: 50 years before and 50 years after", featured The Minidoka Relocation Center, including a re-creation of a tarpaper barrack. Most of the Minidoka Internees were from the Seattle and Pacific Northwest area. The barrack exhibit will be a permanent part of an Asian Pacific American exhibit opening in 1993.

MINIDOKA, Idaho



sign, corner of Hunt Road and #25, taken 8-3-89



## RESISTANCE TO INJUSTICE

**"Congress shall make no law... abridging the right of the people to petition the government for a redress of grievances." (1st Amendment)**

Not all Japanese Americans acquiesced to government orders stripping them of their constitutional rights. Some chose to resist the awesome power of the armed forces and the federal government. The resisters and protesters took the words of the Constitution seriously and demanded that those precepts apply to all citizens alike.

Gordon Hirabayashi, Minoru Yasui, and Fred Korematsu were among the first to protest by refusing to comply with the curfew and internment orders. Shortly after the camp gates closed behind them, Ernest Wakayama and Mitsuye Endo sought freedom through a writ of habeas corpus.

After a year of imprisonment, the Congress of American Citizens at Heart Mountain fought against the loyalty oath. Subsequently, the Fair Play Committee at Heart Mountain refused to obey draft notices until all constitutional rights were restored. At Manzanar, Poston, and Tule Lake, the inmates organized massive demonstrations and worker strikes which paralyzed the camps.

Even those who were already in the armed forces (prewar enlistees) risked everything by engaging in acts of protest. Over 100 Japanese American soldiers at Fort McClellan, Alabama, refused to undergo combat training while their families were still incarcerated.

The protesters and resisters paid a heavy price for their acts. The government cracked down hard with long prison terms, solitary confinement, beatings in stockades, forced-labor units, dishonorable discharges, and exile from the country. However, they can now be recognized as Americans who fought against injustice to "secure the blessing of liberty to ourselves and our posterity." (Preamble)

From the commemorative booklet, Americans of Japanese Ancestry and the United States Constitution published by the National Japanese American Historical Society, San Francisco.

Note: In subsequent court cases, Hirabayashi and Korematsu were acquitted. Min Yasui died before his case was heard to conclusion.

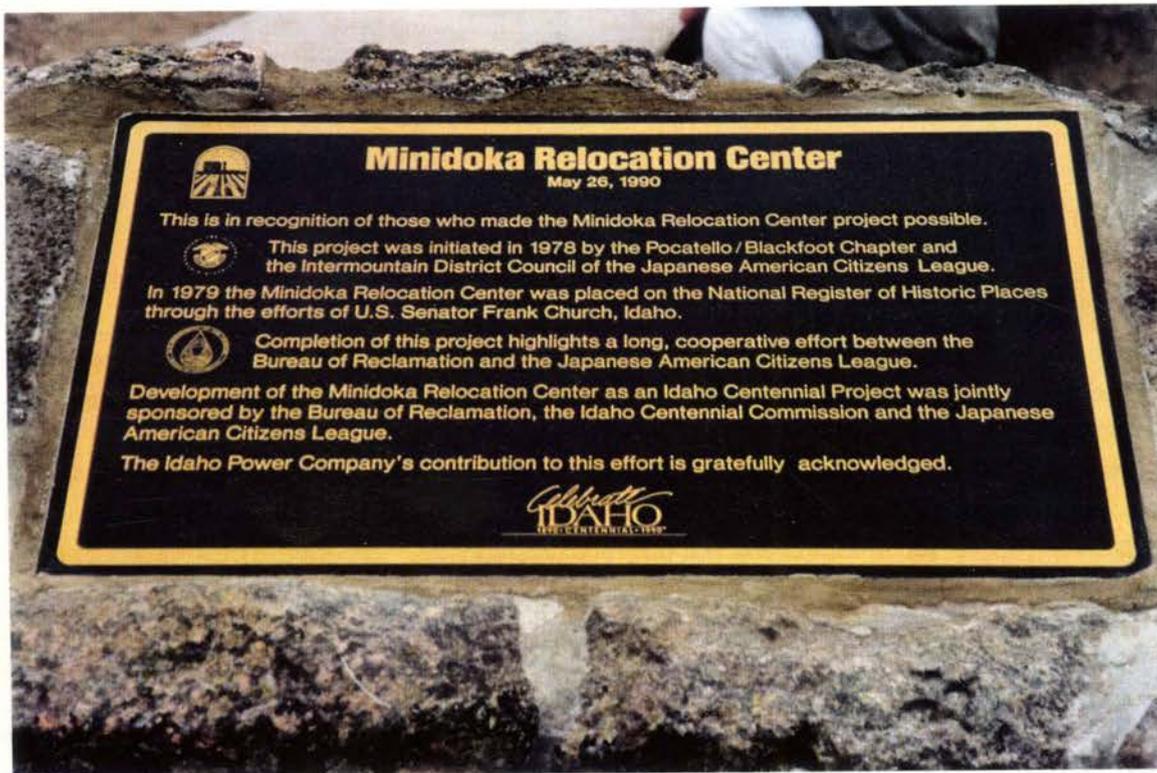
### PERSONAL JUSTICE DENIED

The promulgation of Executive Order 9066 was not justified.....the broad historical causes which shaped this decision were race prejudice, war hysteria and a failure of political leadership. Widespread ignorance of Japanese Americans contributed to a policy conceived in haste and executed in an atmosphere of fear and anger at Japan. A grave injustice was done to American citizens and resident aliens of Japanese ancestry who, without individual review or any probative evidence against them, were excluded, removed and detained by the United States during World War II.

(from the booklet Summary and Recommendations of The Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians, by Japanese American Citizens League, San Francisco, CA, 1983)



Idaho Centennial - Minidoka Memorial Dedication, 5-26-90



One of Four Plaques of Minidoka Memorial Monument

**POSTON, ARIZONA**

(visited 10-25-89)

Opened May 8, 1942; closed November 28, 1945. Peak population 17,814

Origin of Internees: Southern California, Kern County, Monterey Bay Area, Sacramento County, Southern Arizona.

Poston is located about thirty miles north of I-10 and fifteen miles south of Parker, Arizona on the Colorado River Indian Reservation. From I-10, take the Parker-Poston Road north about twenty five miles to the small settlement of Poston. The old camp site is a couple of blocks west of the main road. Of all the ten camps, Poston has the most buildings erected by the internees. The sites of Camps II and III are located further south on the Parker-Poston Road.

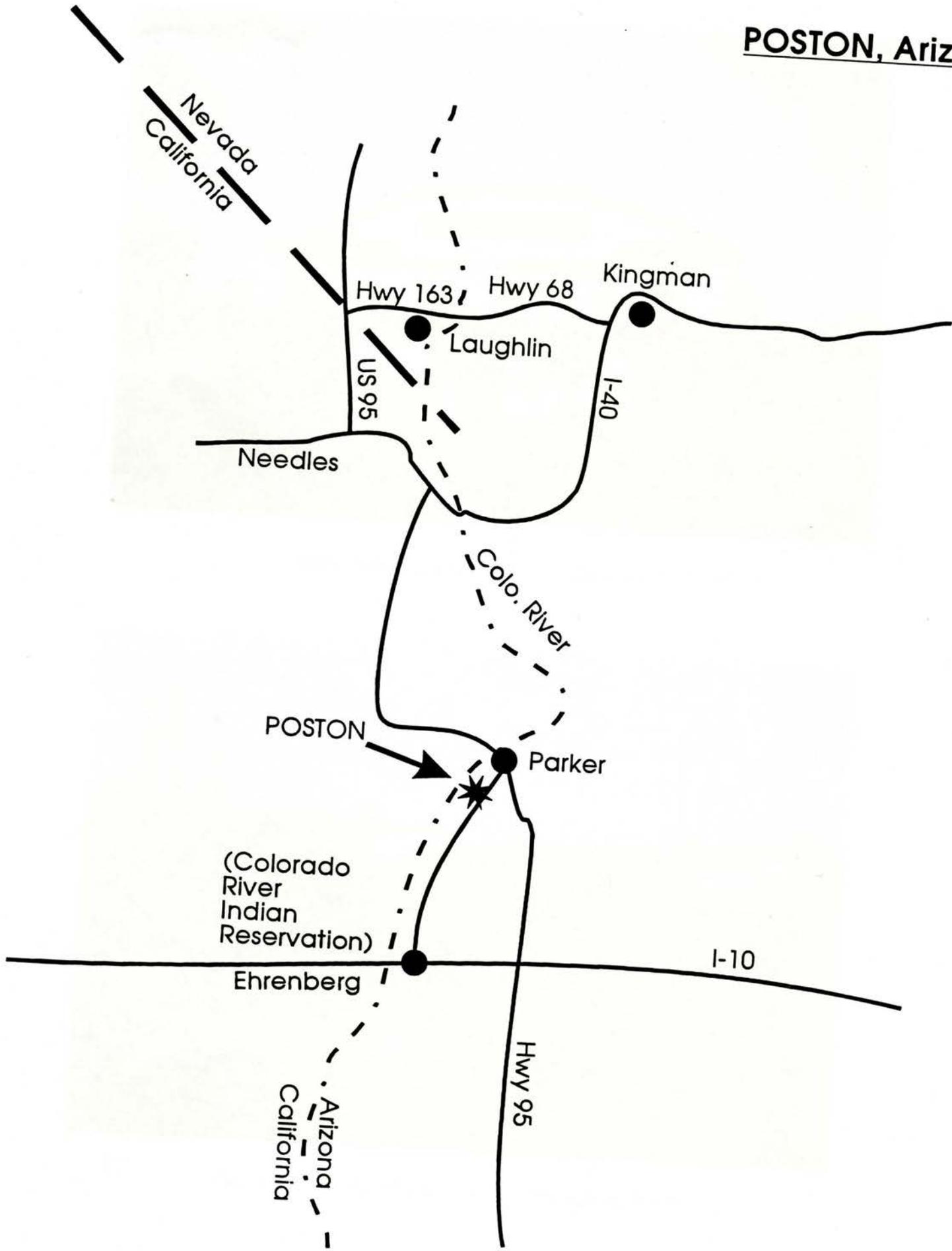
There were no roadside markers nor monuments when we visited in 1989. This will change on October 6, 1992, when a Poston Monument Dedication Ceremony will be held. The Sacramento-based Monument Committee, co-chaired by Kiyō Sato-Viacrucis, Hannah Satow, and George Oki Sr., made the plans and erected the monument in the heat of August 1992. All three camps will attend separate gatherings in Laughlin, Nevada, on October 5 and participate in the Monument Dedication Ceremonies at the Poston I site on October 6. A barbecue lunch will be provided by the Colorado River Indian Tribes. Poston I will gather for their first Reunion in Torrance, California from October 9-11, 1992.

It is hoped that some time in the future, National Historic Site status will be achieved with a friendly tie-in with the Colorado River Indian Tribes. The beautiful Tribal Headquarters and Library are located north of the Poston site.

**AN UNBELIEVABLE STORY**

"The removal of more than 100,000 Japanese Americans to ten concentration camps remains one of the most fantastic chapters in America's history. This engrossing study is focused upon the largest of these immense prisons-Poston, the City in the Sun--hastily erected upon the heat ridden and pestilential Colorado River Desert in western Arizona--isolated shack-city of 20,000 unhappy and bewildered souls--. Here is the story of American citizens, treated as enemy aliens, and the frustrative problems when they were forced to adjust to an inhuman and unbelievable experience." (From the dust jacket of the book City in the Sun - The Japanese Concentration Camp at Poston, AZ. by Paul Bailey, 1971)

POSTON, Arizona

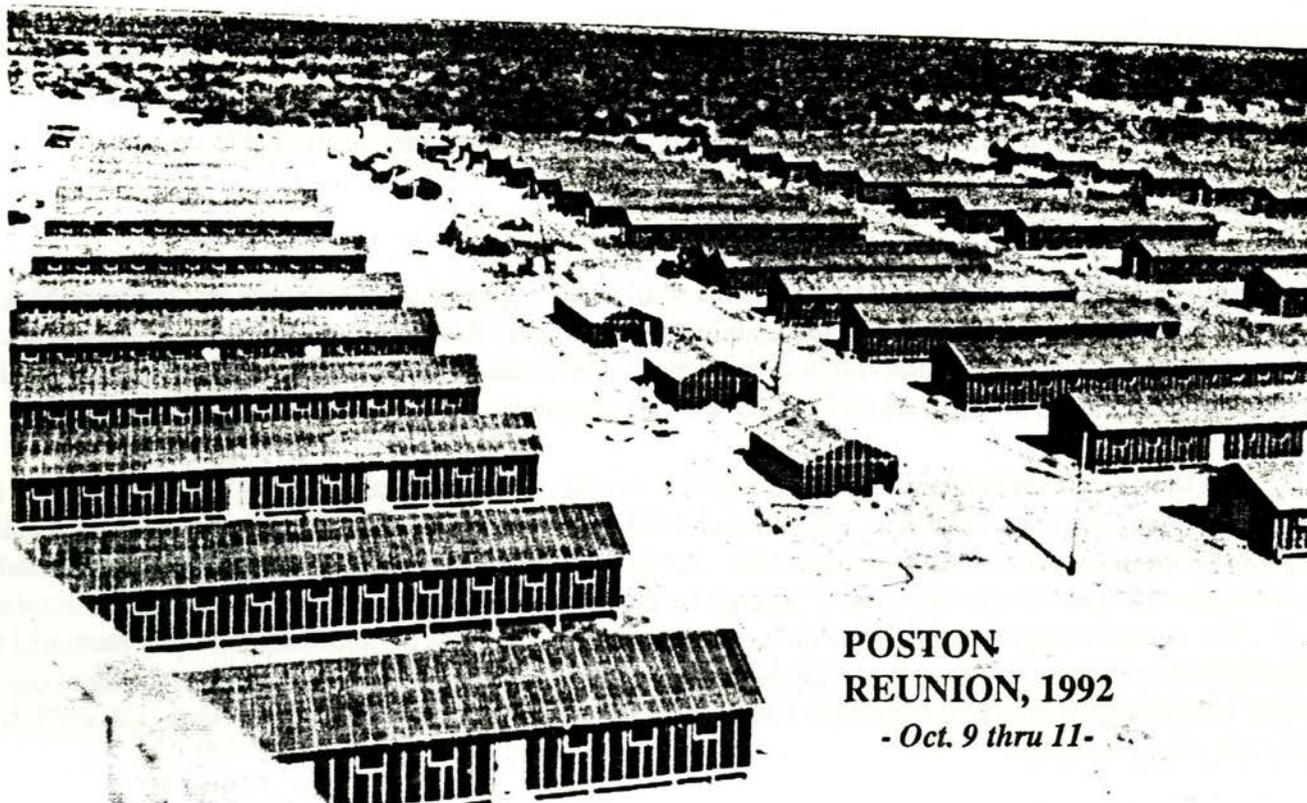




Poston Auditorium built by Internees



Poston Camp adobe school buildings



**POSTON  
REUNION, 1992**

*- Oct. 9 thru 11 -*

**MY JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL YEARS IN BLOCK 30 -- BY ROBERT WADA**

**What was life like for a boy who spent all three of his junior high years within barbed wires of an internment camp?**

My only fear of camp life was of snakes and shots. It took Dr. Murase and three nurses at the camp hospital to hold me down while they gave me a shot to remove a boil under my arm.

I don't want to be Japanese, but I had no choice. I tried Japanese school, but three weeks was three weeks too much!

Belonging to the Boy Scouts gave me an interest in friends my own gender, age and with similar interests such as camping at the river, hiking for ironwood and good friendships.

I regretted being just a little too young to do what the older guys were doing - like when we would play up in the sand dunes behind blocks 17 and 18 and watch the couples smooch behind the bushes. Or being too young to join the army and be a part of the 442nd. Or being too young to be a fireman, but spending 90% of the time in the fire station checking the fire inspector's schedule board so we would know where the dances were going to be held each weekend.

Having a lot of close friends who were only a couple of years older also left an invisible barrier. These guys had a "get-lost-kid" attitude, but only treated me nicely because I had sisters.

When it came to girls my own age, a new fear came in--a fear that I wasn't good enough. I often thought "Hey, I really like her, but heck, she's got the macho guys in our class standing in line". Then, I remember telling myself to set my sights lower. Fortunately, I didn't have to lower my standards at all when I met my wife Shirley. Funny how life works out, isn't it?

(above photo and Wada article are from the 1992 Poston Reunion pamphlet)

**ROHWER, ARKANSAS**

(visited 11-4-89)

Opened September 18, 1942; closed November 30, 1945. Peak population 8,475.

Origin of Internees: Los Angeles and Stockton

Rohwer is located about one hundred miles southeast of Little Rock, Arkansas on Highway #1 and about ten miles east of Highway #165, the main highway to Little Rock. There are roadside signs reading "Rohwer Memorial cemetery" at the Highway #1 turnoff. Cross the railroad tracks and drive to the gravesite memorialized with three monuments and twenty four gravestones.

The tallest monument has Japanese characters on its sides and a sphere at the top on which sits an eagle. The poem has been translated, "In October 1944, the year of the monkey, a monument was built. Sleeping beneath this ground are Japanese souls. Let us pray for the repose of their spirits. Oh, how sad." The tiered cement base has the inscription, "erected by the inhabitants of Rohwer Relocation Center, October, 1944". The second monument, also erected during wartime, is a replica of a military tank as a memorial to those from the camp who died while serving in the armed forces during World War II. The third monument, made of beautiful marble, was dedicated in 1982, under the leadership of Sam Yada, Stockton, CA and Little Rock, AR., now deceased.

The first Rohwer Internee Reunion was held July 20-21, 1990 in Los Angeles, with 1,200 attending, including 40 Issei, many in their nineties. Subsequently, the Rohwer-Jerome Restoration Project was started by the Midwest District Council of the Japanese American Citizen League. Donated funds were used to restore the deteriorating monuments, beautify the cemetery, place a historical plaque at the site, hold a memorial dedication service, and begin a perpetual care fund. A monument was also dedicated at the nearby Jerome camp site. The Jerome camp was closed in 1944 with survivors transferring to Camp Rohwer. Completion of the project was celebrated with a Pilgrimage and Dedication on May 26, 1992.

My personal impression is that state and federal government officials of Arkansas support the Internment projects by their turnout and participation - more so than those of any other state possibly. This was confirmed by a telephone conversation to Nick Katsuki, Gardena, CA., Chairman of the 1st. Rohwer Reunion.

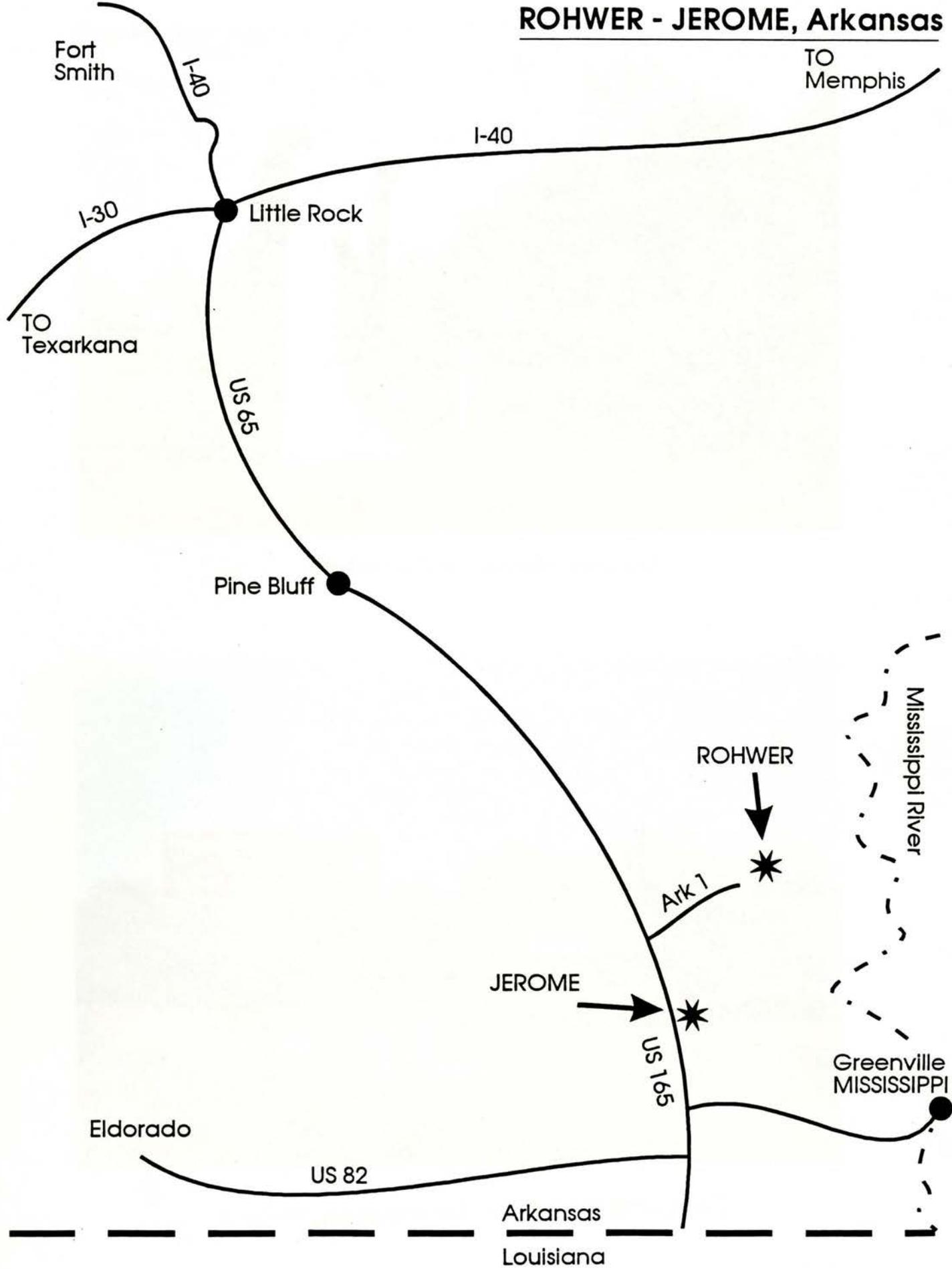
This year, Rohwer was approved as a National Historic Landmark which means preservation and protection of this site by the federal government.

<sup>1</sup> The forced incarceration of the Americans of Japanese ancestry during World War II was virtually ignored by the federal government until 1983, when the Commission of Wartime Internment of Civilians recommended that Congress recognize an injustice was done. In 1988, Congress issued a formal apology to those who suffered this horrible incarceration and offered to make redress."

<sup>2</sup> Despite the denial of their basic civil and human rights, 22,000 Japanese Americans voluntarily served in the U.S. Armed Forces during World War II. The 442nd Regimental Combat Team, 100th Battalion, became the most highly decorated unit in the war...."

from the Rohwer Restoration Project brochure

ROHWER - JEROME, Arkansas



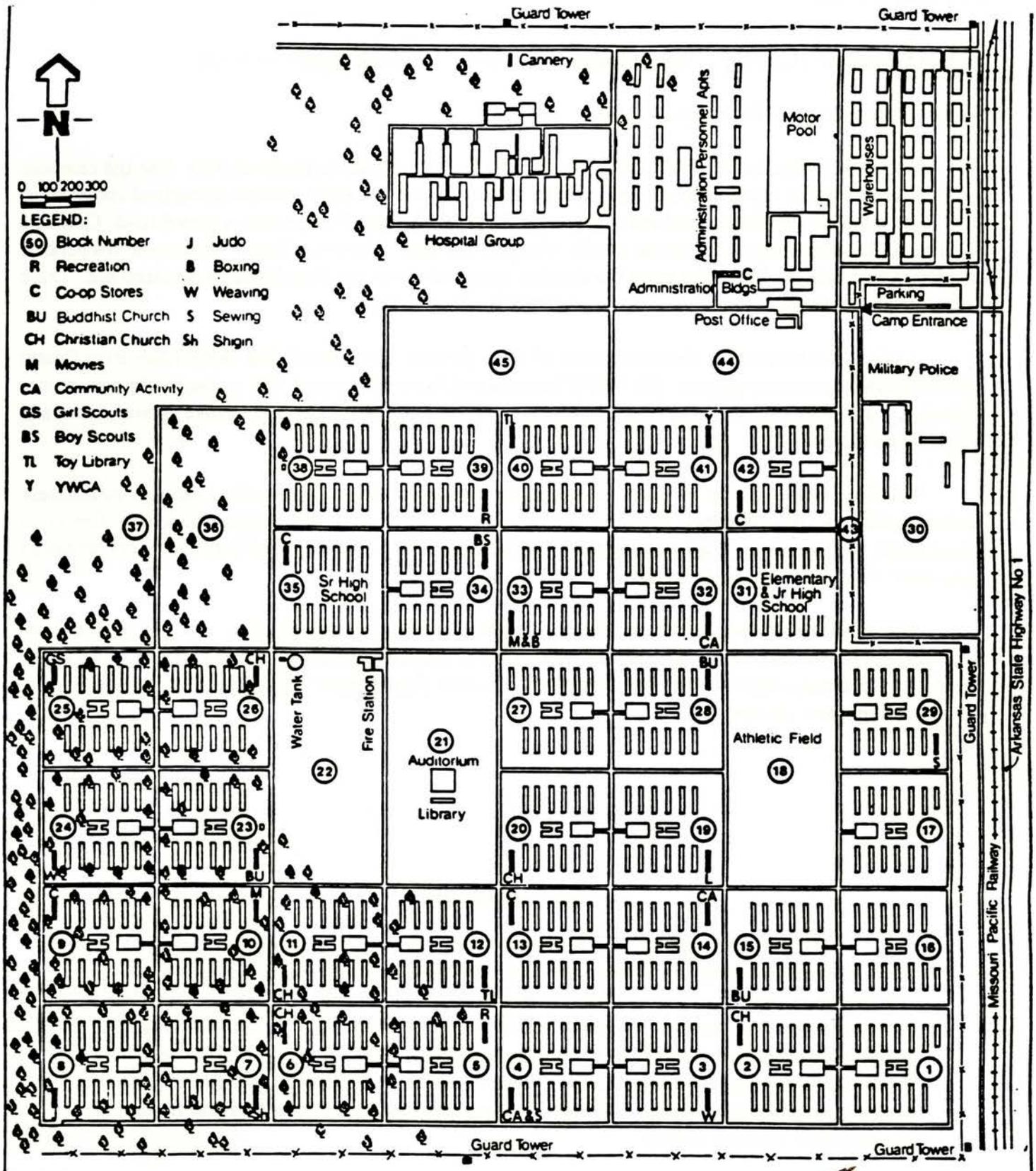


Rohwer Memorial Cemetery



Roadside marker on Arkansas Highway 1

# Rohwer Camp - site plan from The Rohwer Outpost, October, 1989.



Map is redrawn from original plans prepared for the U.S. Army (dated Dec. 31, 1942). Copy of original plan is from collection of Robert Hasuike, Manhattan Beach, CA. Additional information of camp shown under "Legend" is from other sources. Map redrawn for Rohwer Outpost by Kango Kunitzugu - September, 1989.

**TOPAZ, UTAH**

(visited 6-29-89, 6-4-90)

Opened September 11, 1942; closed October 31, 1945. Peak population 8,130.

Origin of Internees: San Francisco Bay Area

About 140 miles south of Salt Lake City is Delta in central Utah on Highway #50. The old campsite is about sixteen miles northwest of Delta. From Delta go west and north toward Sutherland about seven miles. Go two miles past Sutherland and turn west at the roadside sign "Topaz" onto a gravel road. Continue 7½ miles to the monument sitting in the middle of sage brush land. There is a Topaz Monument in a park on the main street in Delta. This monument has detailed engraved directions from Delta to the camp site. There is also an Internment Museum in an old camp barrack building in Delta.

A 5½ foot monument at the site consists of three plaques: (1) Central Utah WRA Relocation Center and US 200th Anniversary plaque, (2) WWII Internment Center plaque and (3) a plaque of photo scenes containing a panoramic view of the whole campsite, a Young Peoples Group, an Evacuee arrival scene and an individual barrack.

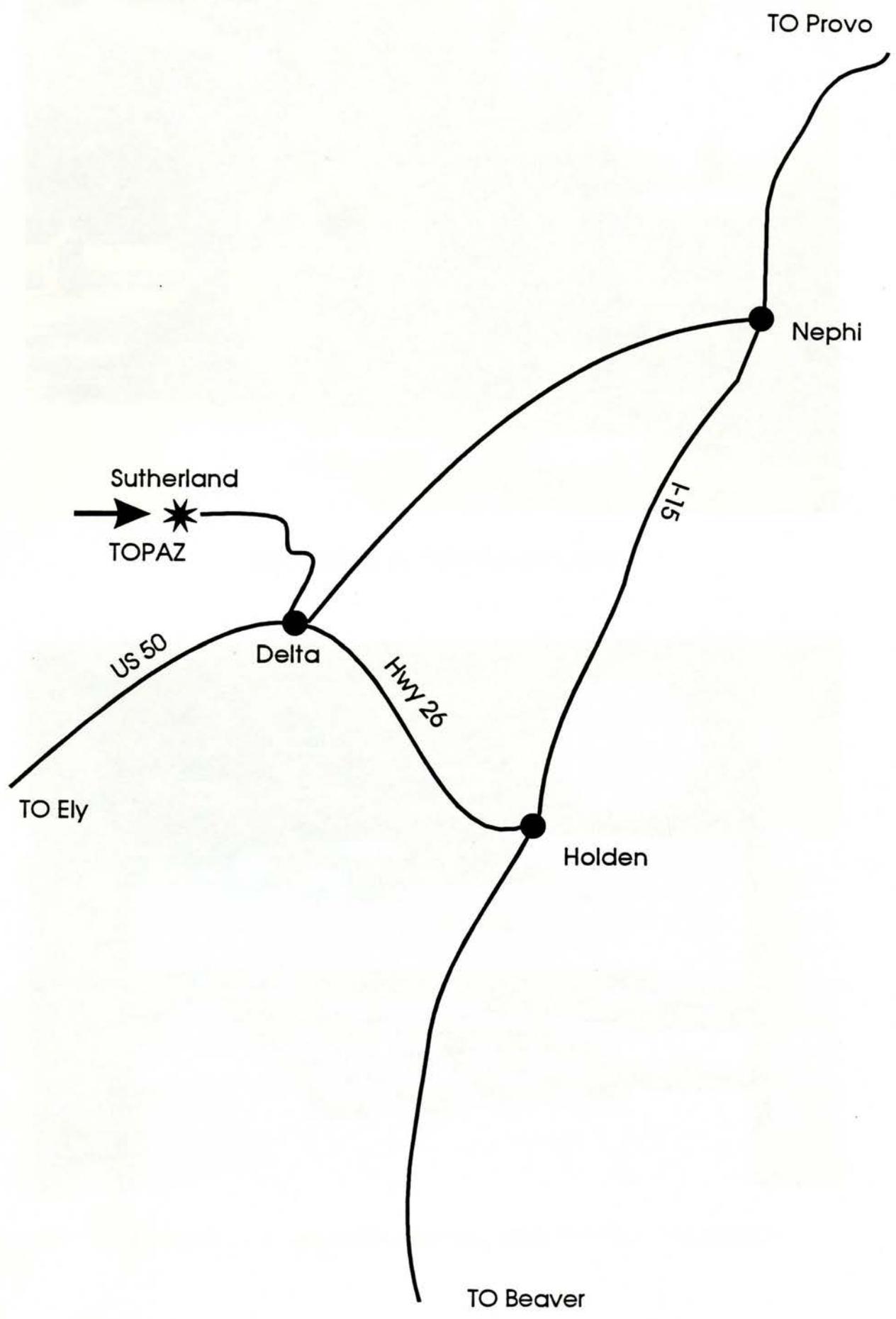
Yoshiko Uchida, author of over twenty books, describes what it is like to be a native born Japanese American citizen as she describes living in Tanforan Assembly Center and Topaz Relocation Center in Desert Exile, the Uprooting of a Japanese American Family, 1982. KUED-TV of Salt Lake City produced a one-hour video called "Topaz" in 1987.

About 1200 attended the Topaz 50th Anniversary Reunion in Burlingame, CA. September 4-6, 1992. Program included photo and memorabilia exhibits, display of paintings, panel discussions on Order #9066 and continuous showing of various videos. Co-chair Sumi Ozawa Sugihara reports a pilgrimage to the Utah camp site is planned in 1993.

### GO FOR BROKE

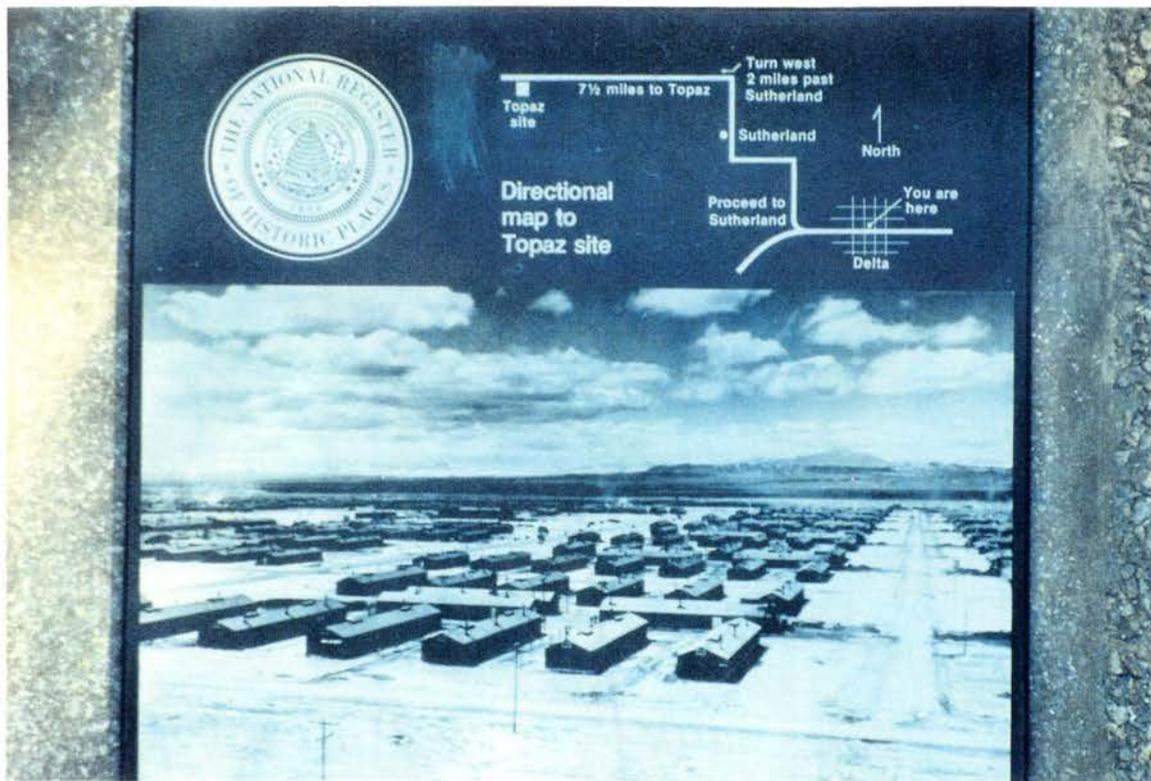
Thousands of young Japanese American men and a few women served in the American Armed Forces in spite of the fact many had parents, brothers and sisters in the internment camps. They served in the 100th Infantry Battalion, the 442 Regimental Combat Team, the Military Intelligence Service and Women's Army Corps. The 100/442 was made up of volunteers from Hawaii and the mainland and their motto was "Go For Broke" which is Hawaiian slang for "shoot the works". They rescued the Lost Texas Battalion and suffered extremely high casualties. The 100/442 Unit was the most highly decorated unit for its size in American military history.

# TOPAZ, Utah





Topaz Monument in Delta, Utah



Delta Monument plaque with directions to Topaz Site

## TULE LAKE, CALIFORNIA

13  
(visited 8-24-89)

Opened May 27, 1942; closed March 20, 1946. Peak population 18,789

Origin of Internees: initially from Sacramento, East Sacramento Valley, Southwestern Oregon, Western Washington. After segregation from all West Coast states and Hawaii.

The large semi-circular, red-stone Tule Lake Monument is located on California Highway #139 in Newell just south of the Oregon border. It is about seventy miles NE of Weed, CA. which is on I-5. A large informational plaque is on the monument indicating the dedication took place in 1979. Nearby is a grade school and also up a steep hill nearby is Castle Rock with a cross on top. A plaque at the base reads: "Tule Lake Christian Ministry Monument - October 2, 1982" and lists 24 ministers. This Monument was dedicated by the Northern California Japanese Christian Church Federation. Tule Lake was considered one of the most turbulent camps, with frequent protest demonstrations and strikes. When the loyalty oath registration was foisted on the Internees, Tule Lake had the most "disloyals" and thus, was selected as a "segregation camp", (from Los Angeles *Rafu Shimpō*, June 20, 1992).

The Seventh Tule Lake Pilgrimage was held September 27-29, 1991. Former Internees attended from New York and Hawaii but most came (by bus) from the San Francisco Bay Area and Sacramento. Professor Larry Shinagawa led a bus load of students from his Asian American Studies Class from Sonoma State College. From the old camp site at Newell, the group traveled to Linkville Cemetery in Klamath Falls, Oregon for the memorial ceremonies in honor of 169 who died while in camp. Chizu Iiyama writes in the San Francisco *Nichi Bei Times* (October 10, 1991) "It was a moving climax to a wonderful weekend of memories, reunion, friendship, healing, sadness and joy - a deep sense of history".

Over 1300 attended Reunion IV, May 22-24, 1992 in Sacramento (*Rafu Shimpō*, June 20, 1992). It was gala, fun time which included golf, tours to Folsom and Reno, mixers, and picnic. Evening speakers at the Sayonara Dinner Dance were Bob Bratt, former Administrator of Office of Redress Administration (ORA) and Sacramento's own Congressman Bob Matsui (Democrat, 3rd CD). Special tribute was made to Mrs. Margaret Gunderson, who taught Nisei students at Tri-State High School in Tule Lake during the war. She is now a professor at University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, MI.

### ASIAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER AMERICANS IN THE 1990'S

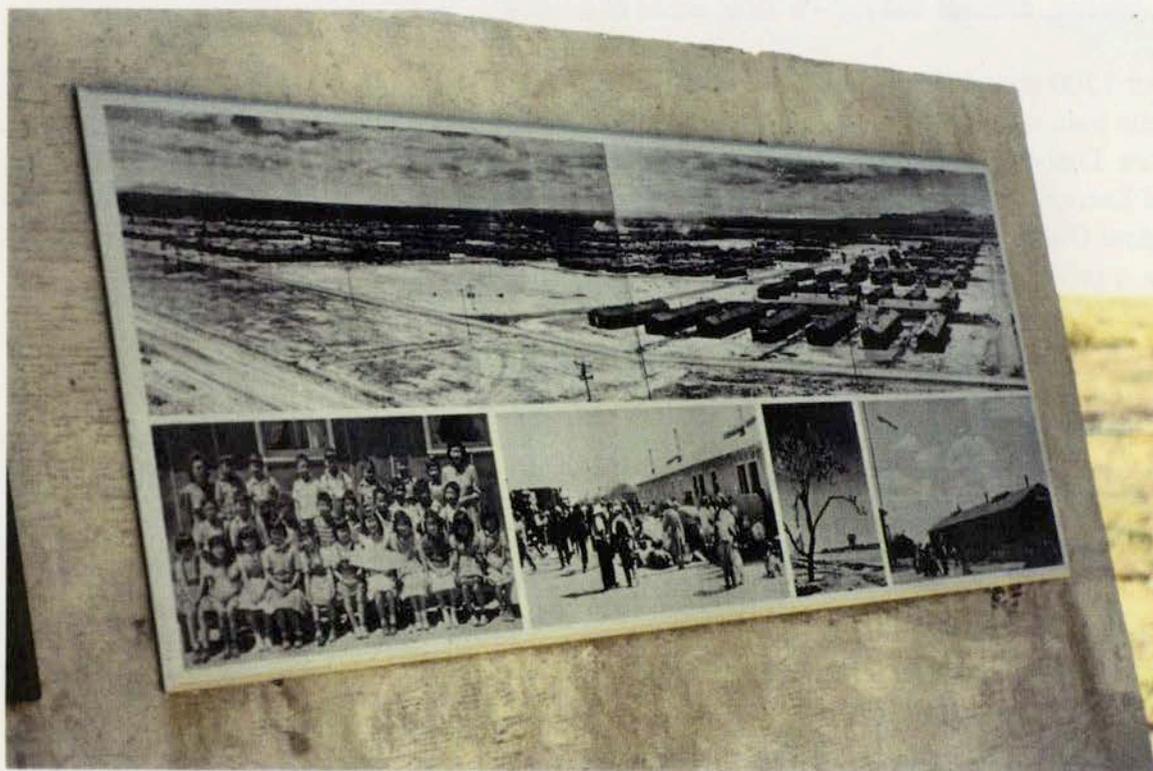
As the 1990's approach, Asian/Pacific Islander Americans find themselves confronted with the resentment and hostility of many fellow Americans. The population growth of Asian/Pacific Islander immigrants and refugees has contributed to another mean-spirited anti-foreigner movement that equates "American" and "English-speaking" and ignores the immigrant origins and ethnic diversity that are our nation's heritage.

The 1980's have also witnessed an increase in acts of hate violence directed against Asian/Pacific Islander Americans fostering an undercurrent of fear and intimidation within those communities. In higher education, the so-called "model minority" is finding that admissions criteria can be manipulated and used to create a de facto system aimed at keeping their numbers down.

Despite their presence in this country for over 100 years, Asian/Pacific Islander Americans remain a mystery to many non-Asians. The public perception of Asian/Pacific Islanders has been largely shaped by contradictory myths and stereotypes, as well as past and present relations with Asian nations. (From Executive Summary, Final Report, December, 1988; ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER ADVISORY COMMITTEE, Attorney General John K. Van de Camp, Sacramento, CA.)

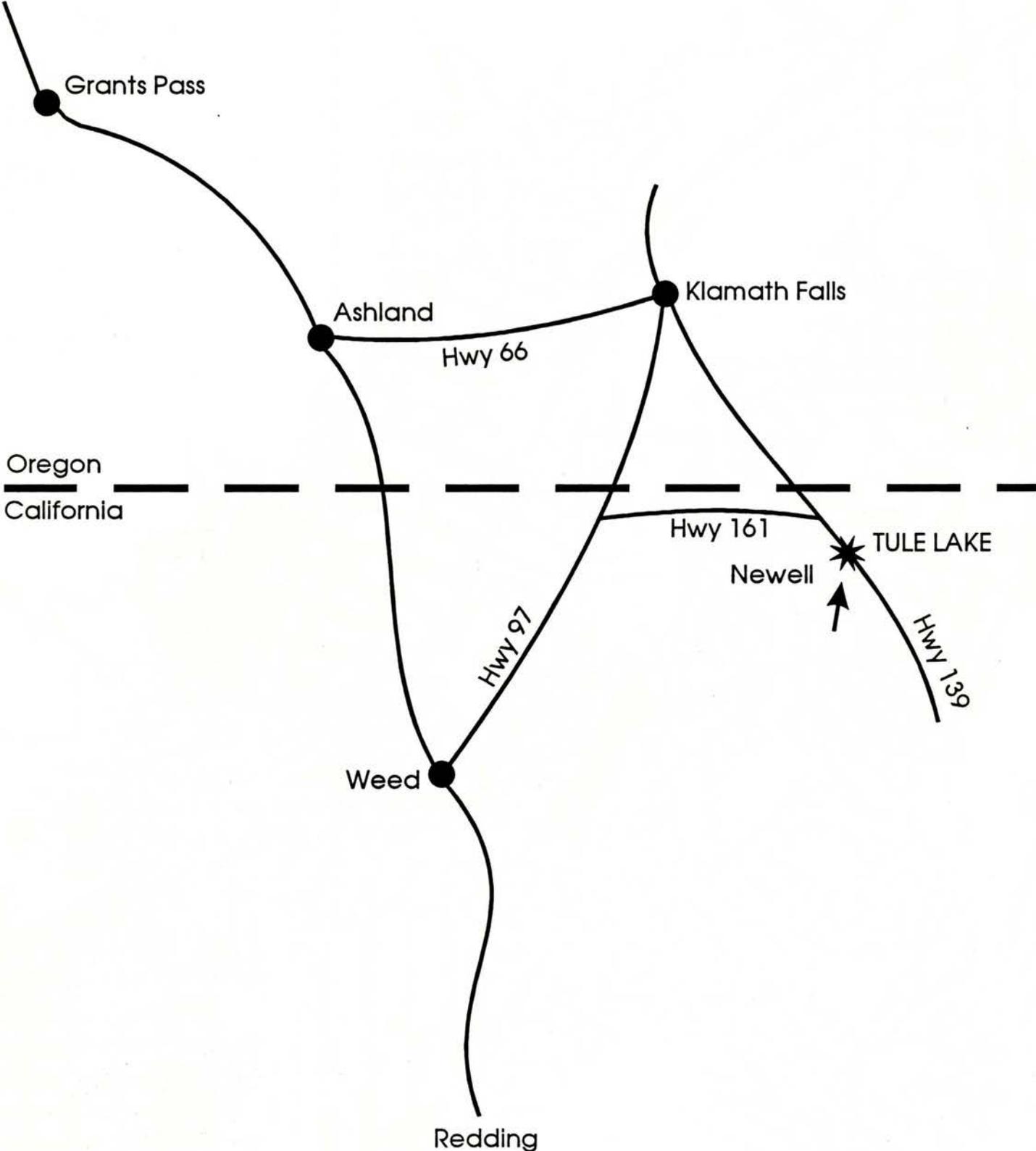


Topaz Monument of Three Plaques

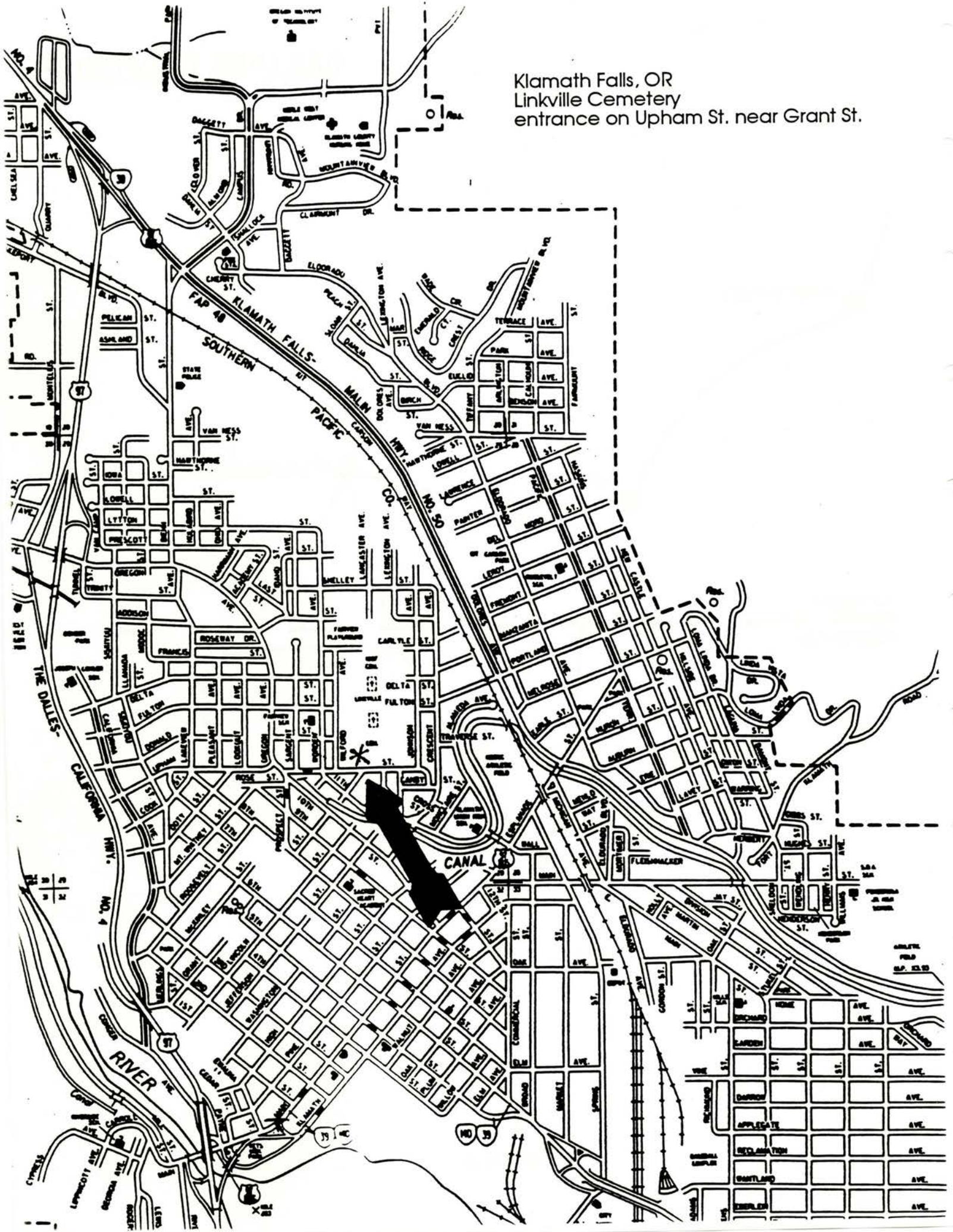


Panoramic view of the camp; other scenes of camp life.

TULE LAKE, CALIFORNIA



Klamath Falls, OR  
Linkville Cemetery  
entrance on Upham St. near Grant St.





Tule Lake Monument located on Calif. #139



Plaque in Linkville, Cemetery, Klamath Falls, Oregon

## THE JAPANESE CANADIAN EXPERIENCE

Approximately 22,000 Japanese Canadians were victims of forced relocation, property seizure, internment and deportation during World War II. Ed Suguro of Seattle took a tour of a dozen old Japanese Canadian camp locations (what is left of them) and his account of the 3-4 day trip appeared in the Los Angeles *Rafu Shimpo* in the August, 1989 issues.

Japanese Canadians had options (bad to worse): accept government work on sugar beet farms in the prairies, go to self-supporting communes in the British Columbia interior, move in with relatives or friends, or go to the Internment camps in ghost towns or remote valleys. About half went into the internment camps. Forty two Issei who refused to cooperate were sent to Angler, Ontario POW center. There was a \$6.5 million movie "Hakujin" based on the Slocan Internment Camp. Of course, living conditions were harsh, perhaps more severe than those in the U.S. camps in some instances. About 800-900 went back to Japan on wartime exchange ships.

On September 22, 1988, (about five weeks after U.S. redress was approved) Canadian Redress was approved. It provided for \$21,000 (Canadian) for each eligible Internee and \$12 million for a Japanese Canadian Redress Foundation for community projects. Japanese Canadians began receiving payments before the Americans and sometimes younger Internees received payment before older ones. The application process angered some applicants. Ed Suguro said some Internees told him that they were thankful the U.S. Redress became law first as it influenced the passage of the Canadian bill.

"Once in a Lifetime Event for all Japanese Canadians!" was the headline for "Moshi Moshi", newsletter of Edmonton Japanese Community Association, January, 1992. It refers to "Homecoming '92" to celebrate 50th year since dispersal of Japanese Canadians in 1942. This very special reunion is planned for October 9-11, 1992 in Vancouver.

Years of Sorrow, Years of Shame by Barry Broadfoot, (1979, 270 pages) gives a good account of the Japanese Canadians during WW II. Of course, American and Canadian experiences differ in many respects. Such as Japanese Canadians had no vote until 1949 and none were allowed in the armed forces.

Obasan (grandmother, old woman) is a Japanese Canadian novel by Joy Kogawa, (1981, 250 pages) poet and author. Redress came so quickly and unexpectedly that it forced Kogawa to change the ending of her novel (from *Rafu Shimpo*, 10-5-88).

....."the Government of Canada acknowledges that the treatment of Japanese Canadians during and after World War II was unjust and violated principles of human rights and that such events will not happen again." From Canada's Apology signed by Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and accompanied payment to Internees, April 27, 1990.

## HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMAN RELATIONS

Civil and human rights is an age old problem and the source of much social unrest in practically every country in the world - from the backward primitive to the most advanced and industrialized nation. There has been much research done about the historical and current situation but it seems there is very little in the way of suggestions and solutions particularly in terms of being "doers" and following through with what we say and profess.

Past emphases has been Black vs. White; majority vs. minority and the usual goal was to be "Americanized" and be assimilated into a "melting pot". Today, Blacks are fighting Blacks; Hispanic gangs war on other Hispanic gangs. To go a step further, in some families (regardless of color) there are parent-child and brother-sister relationships which are tense and estranged.

America promises to be the land of opportunity and freedom but we are not handling our freedom and choices very well. Some immigrants come into the U.S. bringing "excess baggage"--old stereotypes and prejudices of past history. We like to say "Do unto others as you would have others do unto you" but our actions and behavior are too often to the contrary.

It seems we need to adjust from the old "melting pot" thinking to the better "salad bowl" idea where cultural identity is accepted and different foods, languages, religions, customs are recognized. In other words, in this scientific, computer age, the urgent need is to learn to live together, compete less greedily, and work more harmoniously together.

Heretofore, human rights and civil rights were sought after the fact--after an incident, a killing or riot. The usual, and too often, short term civil rights approach is still needed and redress sought if there is an violation. The basic, long term need for these times of changing, diverse populations is prevention and education for a more harmonious human relationship so we may work and live with less tension and be more comfortable in one another's presence as world citizens.

(submitted to fellow members of the Kern County Human Relations Commission.)

Frank Iritani, April 9, 1991

## BECOMING A WORLD CITIZEN

Can you believe that even after some 130 years in California Asian Americans are still strangers? This is the theme of Time Magazine (4-9-90) "Strangers in Paradise". The cover story is "America's Changing Colors". For an extended and more detailed account there is Dr. Ron Takaki's book, "Strangers from a Different Shore: A History of Asian Americans". The Time article points out, "White Europeans accustomed to thinking of themselves as true Americans becoming a multi-racial society is bound to become a bumpy experience".

To be a stranger here or anywhere is to be treated differently-not accepted-to experience rejection in every area of living; to be on the receiving end of jokes, humiliation, threats and even physical harm. As the minority becomes the majority, racism, hate crimes and anti-Asian sentiment increase. Scholarly studies, books on race relations, affirmative action programs, Race Relations Day in our churches, etc. are not improving the situation.

There are many forms of involvement and participation so Asian Americans can shed the "stranger" characterization. Bill Wong, Associate Editor of Oakland, CA, Tribune and Columnist for Asian Week says, "Asian Americans though small in number are politically immature." Judy Tachibana wrote in the California Journal (November, 1986) "many Asian Americans appear to be swayed by neither party". Many times I have heard our Congressman Robert Matsui say, "Asian Americans need to improve their voting record." Yes, the larger community also needs to better its voting record and spend more time with human relations - at the local, state and national levels. Why not a Secretary of Human Relations in the President's Cabinet and a Chairman of Human relations in Sacramento and in the corporate world?

If we are to make any progress in human relations, with reduction of prejudice and xenophobia, we need to have definite, focussed programs starting with the children in our homes, schools and churches.

These changing times call for role model world citizens with more of a global attitude, outlook, thinking and lifestyle. Let us open our eyes and extend our thinking. Our America with its emphasis on freedom and democracy could be the appropriate place to realize this. The narrow melting pot idea needs to be set aside in favor of an inclusive tapestry of many colors. Once again, the urgent need is understanding, empathy, sensitivity and acceptance of different peoples and cultures. Chancellor Chang-Lin Tien of UC Berkeley declared, "If the university is going to educate for the future, we have to educate in terms of a multi-culture society".

"The most important factor accelerating the development of a global lifestyle is the spread of the English language according to John Naisbet in "Megatrends 2000". A common form of communication seems essential and until something better comes along it seems English is the best for now. This seems to be a big weakness among most new comers - even among old timers and professionals. There are over 85 languages spoken in Los Angeles homes and schools. Could there be a relationship between the recent LA riots and communicating effectively with our neighbors and customers?

Most communities now have Asian Pacific American Awareness festivals. The ethnic food, crafts, music and culture programs are growing and becoming more popular. A celebration of the culture and music of any group revitalizes the community and introduces new groups into the community in which they live. Due to political unrest, economic deprivation and other reasons, immigrants and refugees are wanting to come to America. Are we really abandoning the melting pot myth and learning to celebrate ethnic diversity? This new openness enriches us all. What a great time to be alive!

## ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Frank and Joanne (nee Ono) Iritani are both Nisei (2nd generation Japanese Americans) and native born U.S. citizens. He was born in 1921 in Denver, CO and she in Kern County, CA. His Issei parents migrated from Okayama, Japan and hers from Fukushima, Japan. His father Saichi worked on the transcontinental railroad when he first arrived and later settled around Denver and grew vegetables. There were five children - four boys and one girl and Frank was the oldest. He bucked the old Japanese tradition of the eldest son by not continuing with the family vegetable farm. Joanne came from a family of five also and the Ono family farmed around Bakersfield until forced into the Poston Relocation Center in 1942. Due to persistent and often severe discrimination the Issei parents could not become naturalized citizens nor own land. However, this was changed with the passage of the landmark Walter-McCarran Act of 1952, which eliminated race as a consideration in immigration to the U.S. and naturalization.

All the Iritani boys just hated farm work so they all went to college. One was a Fulbright Scholar to Japan and became a professor at Washington State U. after obtaining Phd from U. of Illinois. Another went to U. of Colorado Medical School and practised in Honolulu. Another was a soil scientist for Dept. of Interior. Frank went to U. of Minnesota and Pacific School of Religion after a two-year stint in the Military Intelligence Language Service in Tokyo. He spent about twelve years in the Christian ministry among Japanese Americans and about 23 years as Social Service Worker with Kern County before retiring in 1986. Joanne attended UC Berkeley and was a Special Education teacher with Bakersfield City Schools before she retired in 1989.

After retirement, they have tried to lead active lives by being involved in the community and church activities. They worked with the national Japanese American Citizens League to obtain successful passage of Redress for the Internees though he was never Interned since he was living in inland in Colorado when WWII started. She was selected as "Outstanding Teacher of the Year" several times and "Outstanding Church Laywoman". He was selected "Outstanding Democrat" in 1988. Currently, they publish the "Kern Asian Pacific American" Newsletter each month to promote "better human relations, awareness and involvement" among local Asian Americans.

They enjoy and are proud of their three Sansei children - Susanna, Ken and Bonita and their spouses. All are college graduates and married though Susanna was recently widowed by losing her husband to cancer.

They both like to travel; meet different people and try various ethnic foods though they have to watch their cholesterol and sensitive stomachs. Frank can't enjoy "tsukemono" anymore (Japanese pickled radish) like in his younger days. They have tried curry rice of most Asian countries but now they settle for the "mild" type once in a while.

All the places they visited were interesting - Japan (several times), Korea and Manchuria (in 1938), Kunming, Xian, Chengdu, Beijing, Bangkok, /Chiang Mai, Honolulu, and Edmonton, Canada. In addition to all ten Relocation Centers, they visited Dallas, New Orleans, Washington, D.C., New York and Boston.

Their greatest joy in retirement is visiting with their three grandchildren. Perhaps, their greatest regret is that their parents are not now living to also enjoy their great-grandchildren. As poor Issei immigrants from Asia, their joys were few as it was sacrifice and hard work in the fields just about every day to see that their children learn English, receive college education and be good United States citizens.

