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Sunday morning was just another day to open the Drug Store for business and spend the entire day working. As I started to walk to the Pharmacy, my Aunt, Mrs. N. Nakamura, excitedly remarked that Japan had attacked the U.S. forces in Hawaii. She had just heard it on the radio. I couldn't believe it. It must be a hoax radio news story like the one Orson Welles perpetrated on the public announcement about an invasion from Mars.

But sure enough verification came and all of us were downhearted and angry. It certainly was a day I hated to go to the store and have to face my customers. The next day, Monday, my friend, Chamber of Commerce President, Warren Shingle, and Executive Secretary, Jack Kaufman, came to see me at the Pharmacy and offered their assistance. As President of the JACL Chapter (YSBC Chapter), I presented a resolution to Mayor Charles Hust, which was published in the Tuesday, December 9, 1941 issue of the Marysville Appeal Democrat. The resolution in the article headlines Sutter-Yuba Japanese American:

Whereas, we American citizens of Japanese ancestry in Yuba, Sutter, Butte and Colusa Counties are perturbed and distressed in this crisis, and

Whereas, we are desirous of declaring ourselves loyal to our country, the United States of America,

Therefore, publicly before our governing bodies, public officials, and fellow American citizens, we state as follows:

We, American citizens of Japanese ancestry, by unanimous thought and action, are loyal citizens of the United States,

It is our desire to show our allegiance to the United States of America,

Therefore, be it resolved that the Yuba-Sutter-Butte-Colusa (YSBC) Chapters of the American Citizens League reaffirm without any reservation our allegiance to the Constitution of the United States and to our American ideals and institutions.

The coming days were to bring a lot of problems and worry for the Japanese Americans. As President of the JACL Chapter, I pledged the organization to the defense of our country, to cooperate with other loyal organizations in whatever manner we find possible and specifically to find, report, and resist un-American actions from whatever source they may be found.

The National JACL was preparing to guard and inform the chapters and present a united front in the days ahead. Locally, the FBI had begun interrogating some Isseis, who had been active in the Japanese Association and other Japanese organizations and some were picked up and held for more questioning. I had a FBI officer question me and asked me to name individuals who could be spies for the Japanese government. Honestly I could not name anyone who I could suspect of being a Japanese agent. When I said I did not know, the FBI agent remarked to me "That is the reason we can't trust you, because you will not talk." It was an insulting remark.

As the war progressed and the early stages were not favorable to the American public, the government with a push from the Army, American Legion, Farm Bureaus, began planning for ways to safeguard the West Coast from invasion. Of course, Japanese aliens and Niseis were residing in vulnerable areas and had to be moved.

Finally, it resulted in the signing of Executive Order 9066 Evacuation Orders. Now the JACL Chapter had formulated plans to prepare the evacuees for this evacuation. An office was set up in the Japanese Gakuen building and hired Noburo Honda as Executive Secretary. The office was a place where evacuees could sell personal property, which they would not be able to take with them. Tragically, most items were sold at a tremendous loss. There was information that all evacuees would need medical shots before entering camps. Dr. Phillip Hoffman from the Marysville Medical Clinic offered to give shots without charge for all the potential evacuees.

The evacuation plan was to divide California, Oregon and Washington into two areas. Within California, Highway 99 E running north and south split into Area One, closest to the ocean, and Area Two the inner half. When announcement came for Area One evacuees, the local JACL office served the first evacuees in disposition of personal goods, finance, and legal matters. Although there had been no talk of moving people out of Area Two, the final orders came and on July 1942, all remaining Japanese Americans in California were removed from their homes.

In 1940, I had opened a pharmacy called Franklin Pharmacy on the southwest corner of Second and D Streets, which was formerly occupied by Johnson's Pharmacy. After operating for about a year, when the Area One evacuee orders were announced, it technically closed the pharmacy because I could not enter into it. It was Area One because D Street then was a part of Highway 99E. The stores on the west side of D Street were part of Area One; stores on the east side of D Street were part of Area Two. People of Japanese ancestry could walk on the east side of D Street but not on the west side.

Fortunately, hearing of the impending announcement, I removed my merchandise and was able to sell the fixtures to a pharmacist who reopened later. The prescription drugs were sold to other drug stores in town.

Our home was rented out to a Chinese woman and most of our possessions were stored in the room attached to the garage. This room was locked and I notified the woman that no one was to enter or use the room for any purpose. We thought that our stored possessions would be secure. But what a disappointment in trusting the renter. A few months later, in Tule Lake WRA, I learned that the woman had opened the room, and moved our possessions, with the exception of some missing goods, into the garage. I petitioned the WRA to investigate and later had a friend bring the possessions up to Tule Lake by truck. I cannot describe the anger I felt toward that Chinese woman.

Our orders to move out of Area 2 was set for July, 1941 and we had sufficient time to dispose of goods we were not able to store or take with us. We had purchased a 1941

Plymouth Coupe with two folding seats in back of the regular seat. Autos being scarce, we had no difficulty finding a buyer who got a good buy.

As President of the Japanese American organization, I was given the task of keeping tabs on the Buddhist Church, Japanese Language School, and the Hall buildings. John H. Fuller, a friend, and also former scoutmaster of the JA Boy Scout Troup, was to act as agent and report to me in camp. He did a great job for us.

Just before leaving, the Japanese Language School Building and the Hall were leased to the USO. It was a blessing because this Hall building had a mortgage payment of several thousand dollars. Happy to state, the final payment was made when we returned home.

In Tule Lake WRA our family residence was in Block 48 where many of the Marysville people were assigned. I was Block Councilman and employed as the Clerk at the Records Office first as Interviewer, Supervisor and finally Office Manager. The office interviewed every resident of Tule Lake -- birth, schooling, employment record, profession or occupation, etc. Eventually all similar records from other WRA Centers were sent to this Records Office.

For diversion, I played some baseball with the Marysville team and also softball.

August 14, 1943 was an eventful day -- birth of our first child, Gary. In picking a Japanese name was unusual. In our early days in the Center, each family was given a pine seedling to plant in front of their rooms. Surprisingly, the pine seedling grew well. So a friend suggested the name Matsuo -- pine in Japan is Matsu.

There had been many problems among the residents of Tule Lake Center and the WRA planned the segregation of so-called good and bad. September 1943 was moving time for us again and my parents, Joe and my family boarded a train to Granada WRC. At Granada WRA Center in Amache, Colorado SE, our residence was Block 9K. We met people from around the Los Angeles area. The Center was built in a desert-like country and sandstorms were terrific and storms with thunder and lightning were frequent. One lightning struck a building on the next block. Rattlesnakes were abundant and one former Marysville resident, a Mr. Mukaida, caught and preserved a number of snakes. After the War, he donated them to the Science Department at Marysville High School.

My first trip out of the WRA Center was March 1944, from Granada to Chicago, Illinois. I was able to find a position as water analyst with a manufacturer of floor wax. After a week there, the Marysville Draft Board ordered me to report for a physical. I reported to the Exam Board in Chicago and passed. There was no definite date of induction and I returned to Granada in April 1944 where Hatsuye and Gary were residing. I was to wait for a set induction date. In the meantime, I was asked to teach chemistry at the high school. As primitive as equipment was, I hoped the students learned something. For example, we had an experiment requiring distilled water but none was available. So fortunately, it rained and we collected rain water in place and it worked.

The induction date approached. Just two days before that date, the Marysville Draft Board ordered cancellation of my induction. It meant another opportunity to get out and find employment.

Finally, back in Chicago the WRA and Employment Service couldn't find a pharmacist position even though I had a certification qualifying me for Civil Service Pharmacist. Then Savoy Drug & Chemical Company, which was manufacturing soda and charcoal tablets for the Army, and vanilla tablets for the Navy needed a Pharmaceutical Chemist to analyze and control manufacture of these tablets as well as other drugs. I applied and got the position. Although the pay scale was low, I worked overtime and was able to support the family.

Housing was a problem at first arrival of the family but thanks to brother George and wife Jean, we were able to stay with them until a place was found, an apartment near them on North Halstead Street. However, it was a struggle trying to rent. For example, there was a rental advertised and we called by phone to see if it was still open and we wanted to rent but when we arrived and met the owner, she told us it had been rented. Apparently, because of our ancestry, she changed her mind.

The apartment we rented was on the second floor, 3544 N. Halstead Street, and consisted of a living room with a large coal stove. There were several bedrooms, which were needed because Joe lived with us and Jeanne arrived in Chicago from Amache to continue her schooling.

On February 12, 1945 we were blessed with the birth of Lynne, and I am sure Hatsuye was happy to have a girl! With two diaper-aged children, diaper service was kept busy.

Feeling the need for an Illinois Pharmacy license, I studied during the streetcar ride to work each day. The day arrived and surprisingly passed and received my Illinois license. One of my fellow employees at Savoy's was working part time in a drug store, and I thought I could also, but the end of the war changed everything.

When I received word that the Marysville people were being returned to their original city, I arranged to return to Marysville to see if housing would be available by opening up the JA owned buildings that were leased out at evacuation time. It was a hurried trip and upon arrival, found the evacuees living in the Church and seemed comfortable under the circumstances. The atmosphere of the area did not seem too hostile, and some of the returning JA soldiers visited with the evacuees.

I returned to Chicago and suggested to the family of returning to California. We decided to go back to Marysville and on December 1945, we left for home.