
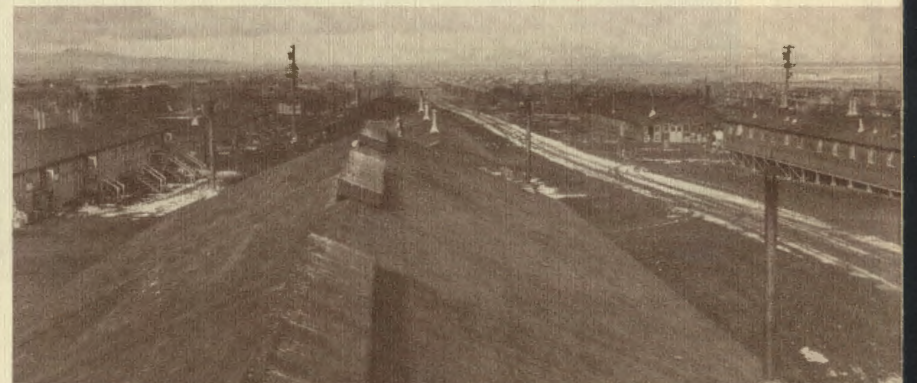


Tule Lake

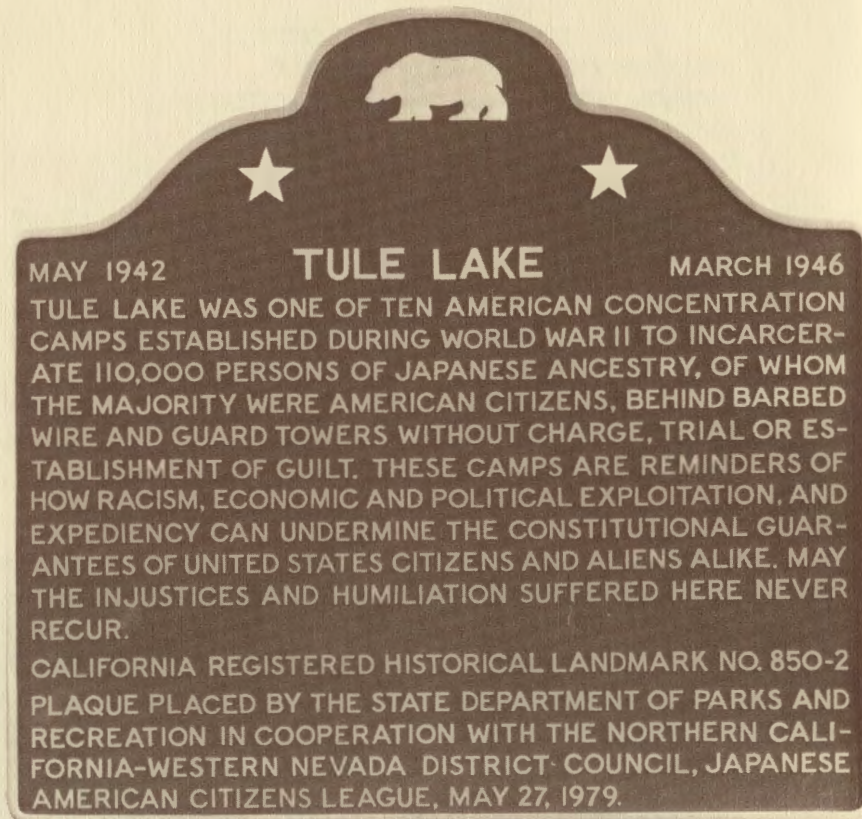


The limited plaque wording cannot describe the great sufferings and conflicts which Tule Lake represents to many of us. I sincerely hope, however, that this plaque dedication will help to heal the deep scars left when the U.S. Government forced the segregation of many of our parents, brothers, sisters and friends because of two responses, "Yes, Yes" or "No, No!"

Ben Takeshita
NCWNDC Governor



State
Historical Landmark
No. 850-2.



The California Department of Parks and Recreation has designated the site of the former Tule Lake Camp as an official State Historical Landmark (No. 850-2). Despite some controversy over the use of the phrase "concentration camps", the Department approved the plaque wording after modifying the phrase to read "American concentration camps".

The State of California has provided the official bronze plaque. However, the stone monument (which contains a time capsule) and dedication ceremony must be privately funded.

The Tule Lake Camp

Tule Lake was one of ten concentration camps built by the U.S. government during World War II to incarcerate over 110,000 persons of Japanese ancestry.

Located in a desolate area in Northern California near the Oregon border, the camp was designed to hold approximately 16,000 persons. The first evacuees reached Tule Lake on May 27, 1942, bringing only what they could carry in their arms. More followed — men and women, rich and poor, young and old, healthy and sick, citizens and aliens. Their only crime was their Japanese ancestry.

Evacuees were brought from all over the West Coast. However, significant numbers came from Butte, Yuba, Placer, and Sacramento counties in California; King, Clark, Cowlitz, and Pierce counties in Washington; and Hood River, Marion, and Multnomah counties in Oregon.

The people were housed in row, upon row of crowded, tar-paper barracks. The camp perimeter was surrounded by barbed wire fences. Along them were wooden watchtowers manned day and night by armed military personnel. Life was hard. The pressures of involuntary confinement led to occasional "disturbances", however, most of camp life

consisted of just trying to maintain life's basic activities — eating, sleeping, working, caring for the sick, educating the young — under very difficult circumstances.

On July 15, 1943, Tule Lake was officially declared a "Segregation Center." Commencing in September 1943, evacuees in the other nine concentration camps whose loyalty were in question by the U.S. Government were segregated and transferred to Tule Lake. Thousands of original Tule Lake evacuees were again uprooted and transferred to other camps to make room. The segregation program took more than one month to complete. The emotional trauma caused by branding evacuees as "loyal" or "disloyal" remains to this day.

On March 20, 1946, Tule Lake officially closed its gates, the last of the ten camps to do so.

The shattering of lives, monetary loss, and human misery inflicted by the evacuation were staggering; the humiliation, indignities, and mental anguish beyond calculation. This dedication is a tribute to the people who endured this tragedy — both the living and those who have passed away. In the words of the plaque which will forever mark this site, "... may the injustices and humiliation suffered here never recur."



TULE LAKE EVACUEES — 1942
(W.R.A. Statistics By County)

	All Evacuees	To Tule Lake
CALIFORNIA		
Alameda	4,805	320
Butte	233	195
Los Angeles	34,141	396
Monterey	1,847	127
Placer	1,829	1,807
Sacramento	8,038	4,984
San Francisco	4,883	236
San Joaquin	5,014	379
Santa Clara	3,775	234
Yolo	1,135	334
Yuba	542	476
WASHINGTON		
Clark	129	115
Cowlitz	126	111
King	2,870	2,703
Pierce	2,006	946
Thurston	85	77
Whatcom	34	34
OREGON		
Hood River	431	425
Jefferson	23	21
Marion	180	175
Multnomah	2,309	312
Polk	49	44
Wasco	66	66
OTHER	36,617	901
TOTAL	111,170	15,418

TULE LAKE PLAQUE
DEDICATION CEREMONY
Sunday, May 27, 1979, 2 pm

PROGRAM

WELCOME BY MC

Karl Nobuyuki, JAACL
National Executive Director

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

VFW Nisei Post 8985

INVOCATION

Reverend Thomas W. Grubbs
San Mateo

OFFICIAL GREETINGS

City of Tule Lake
Robert Jones, City Clerk
State of California
Russell W. Cahill, Director,
Dept. of Parks and Recreation
U.S. Congress
Robert Matsui, U.S. Congressman

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

Karl Nobuyuki

COMMUNITY STATEMENTS

Community Representatives

UNVEILING AND TIME CAPSULE

Dr. Clifford Uyeda
National JAACL President
Russell W. Cahill, Director,
Dept. of Parks and Recreation

PRINCIPAL SPEAKER

J. J. Enomoto, Director,
California Dept. of Corrections

CLOSING STATEMENT

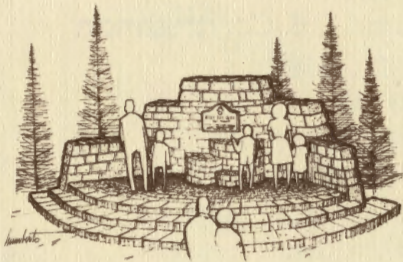
Ben Takeshita, Governor, JAACL,
Northern Cal.-Western Nev. Dist.

BENEDICTION

Reverend LaVerne Senyo Sasaki
Mountain View Buddhist Temple

Acknowledgments

The "Tule Lake Plaque Committee" of the Japanese American Citizens League, Northern California - Western Nevada District Council acknowledges its sincerest gratitude to the California Department of Parks and Recreation, the "Tule Lake Committee," dedication ceremony participants, and all individual and organizational donors and volunteers.



"Tule Lake Plaque Committee"
Northern California - Western Nevada
District Council
Japanese American Citizens League
1765 Sutter Street
San Francisco, CA 94115