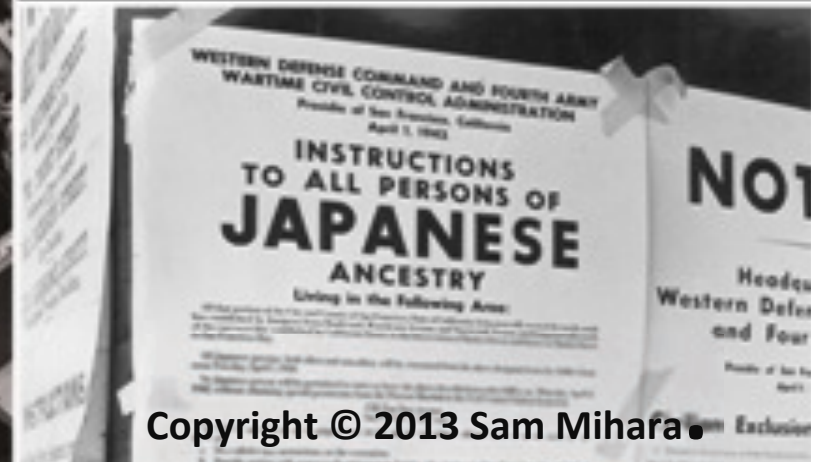






Memories of Heart Mountain

Sam Mihara

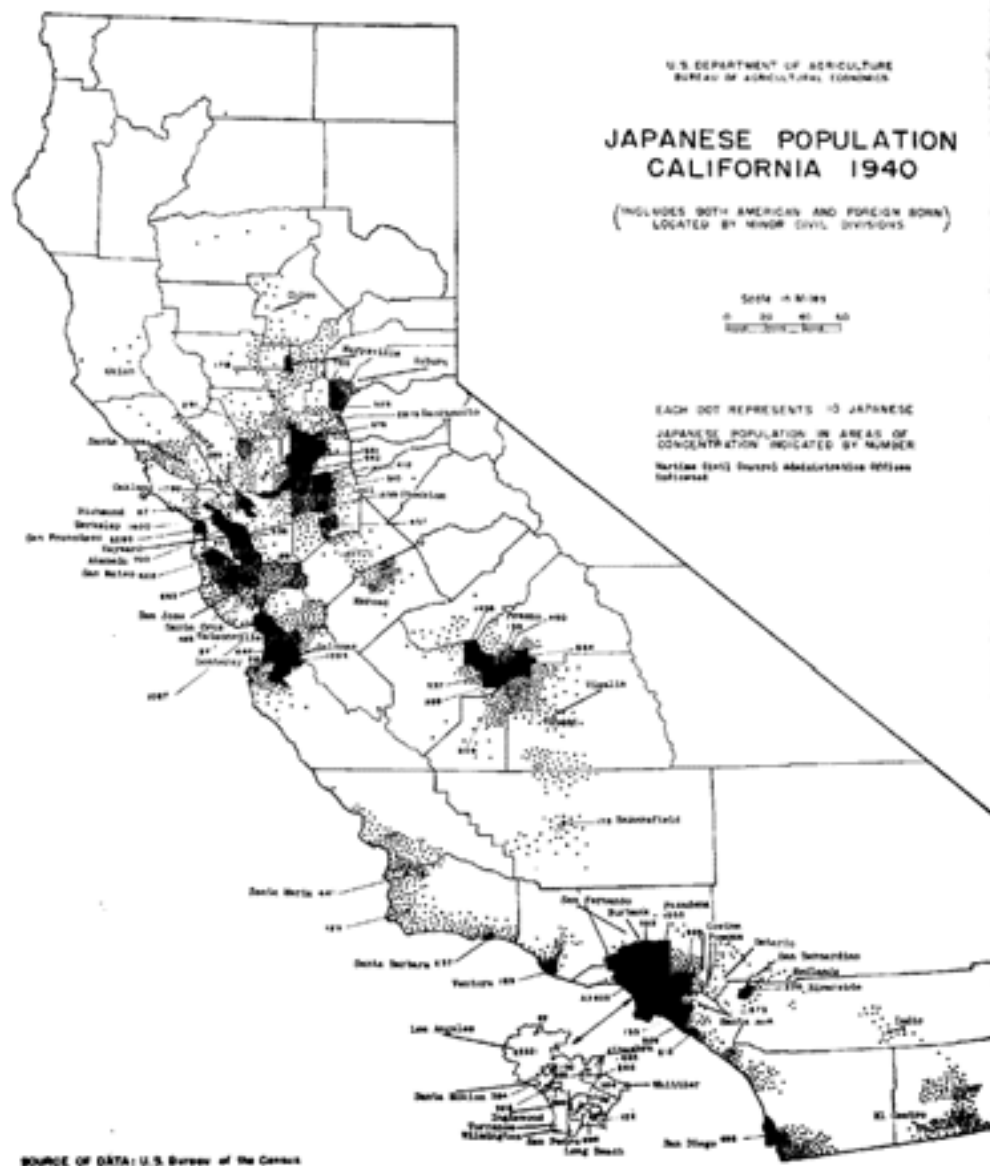


Copyright © 2013 Sam Mihara



Before Camp

**In 1940, most
Japanese were
concentrated in
west coast**



"Japanese Population in California," 1940. Wartime Civil Control
Administration/U.S. Department of Agriculture.



San Francisco's Post Street – Our home town





Buchanan Street



Mihara family, father's side, c. 1941



Mihara family, mother's side, Nov 1938



Our traditions included Boy's Day



We went to Raphael Weill School



Hisashi Kobayashi

Akira Watanabe

We were taught allegiance to the USA



**“...with
liberty and
justice for
all.”**

**Photo by
Dorothea
Lange**





Nakamoto market

- May 1940
- Typical family-owned



Nakamoto family

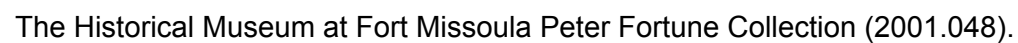
- Father detained
- Mother managed grocery
- 1500
“dangerous”
aliens detained



Rev. Fukuda and family

- Konko Church
- 6 Children –
U.S. citizens.
- Dec. 7, FBI took
Rev. Fukuda





“High Risk” prisoners taken to Montana



The Historical Museum at Fort Missoula Peter Fortune Collection (2001.048).

Ft. Missoula Alien Detention Center



The Historical Museum at Fort Missoula Peter Fortune Collection (2001.048).



Imprisoned at Ft. Missoula



The Historical Museum at Fort Missoula Peter Fortune Collection (2001.048).

Living conditions at Ft. Missoula

- Bunk beds
- Communal baths
- Prisoner medical
- Farms
 - Poultry
 - Eggs
 - Veggies
- Leave under guard



The Historical Museum at Fort Missoula Peter Fortune Collection (2001.048).

Italian Menu

- Macaroni and sauce
- Steak with sauce of mushroom, tomatoes, white wine, oregano
- Fried potatoes
- Salad of baby beets, brussel sprouts, baby carrots, turnips, garlic, and extra virgin olive oil
- Honeydew melon
- White cake with decorative frosting



Japanese Menu

- Rice
- Fish
- Soybeans (Tofu)
- Fresh vegetables



The Historical Museum at Fort Missoula Peter Fortune Collection (2001.048).

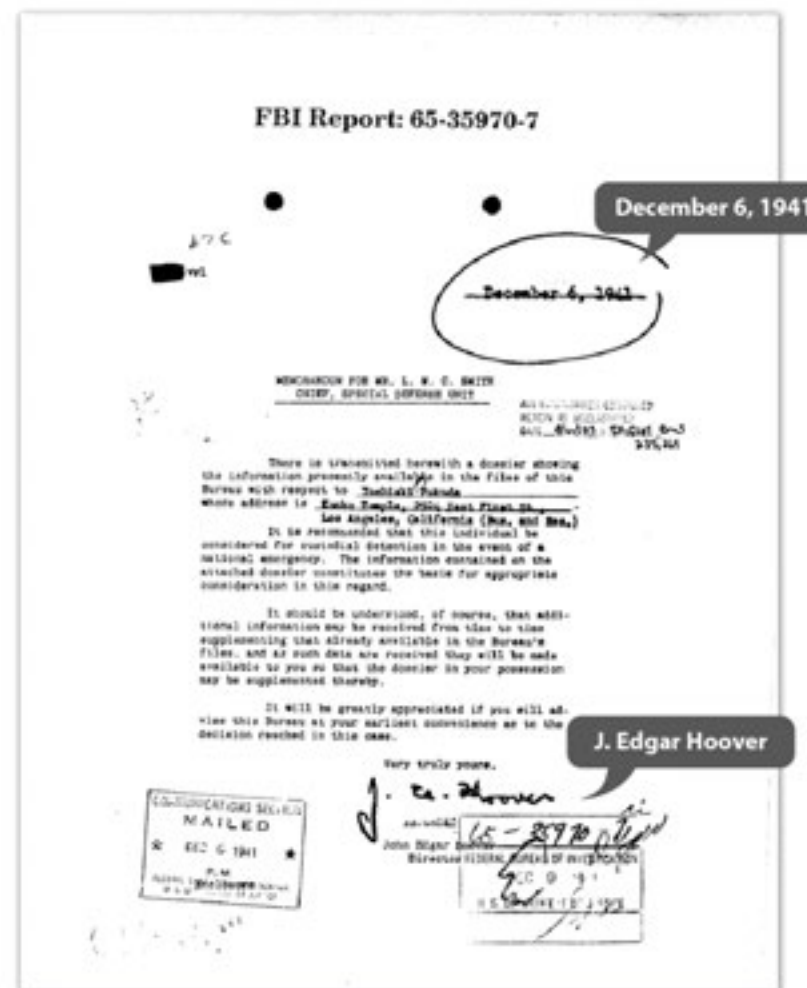
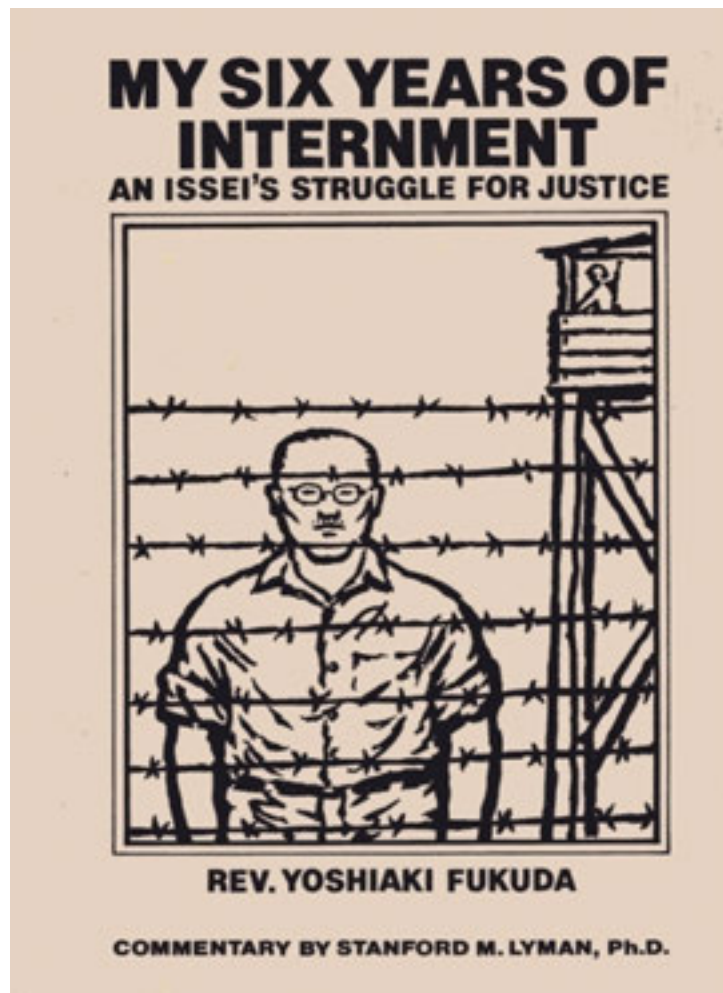


Activities within camp



The Historical Museum at Fort Missoula Peter Fortune Collection (2001.048).

J. Edgar Hoover ordered detention



Pres. Roosevelt spoke on Dec. 8, 1941

“Yesterday, December 7th, 1941 -- a date which will live in infamy . . .”

“Japan has, therefore, undertaken a surprise offensive.”



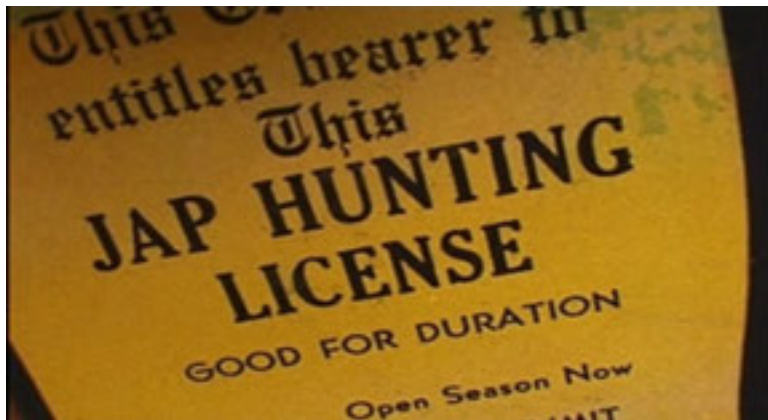
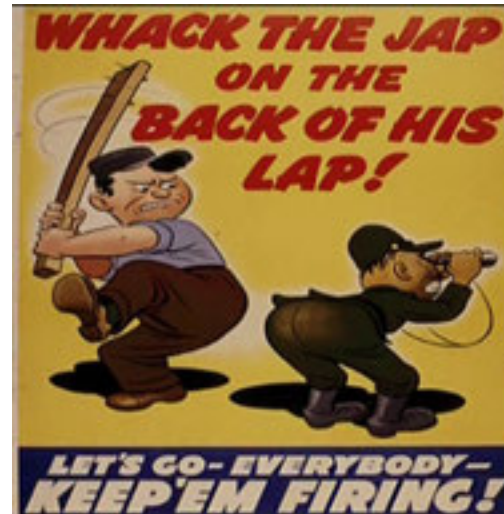


Local media spreads hysteria

- San Francisco Examiner
- Los Angeles Times
- Sacramento Bee



Racial prejudice spread through media



Do not use the “J__” word

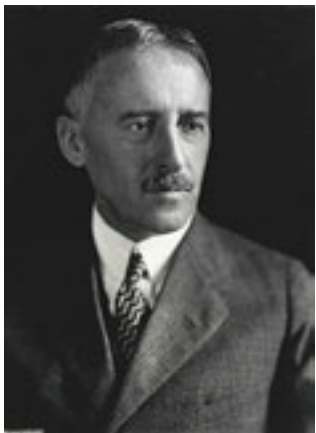


**TREACHEROUS
JAPS OPEN
WAR ON U.S!**





Who supported mass removal?



Sec War Stimson



Lt Gen DeWitt



CA AG Warren



CA Gov Olson



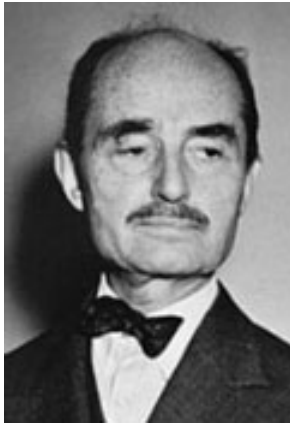
Asst Sec War McCloy



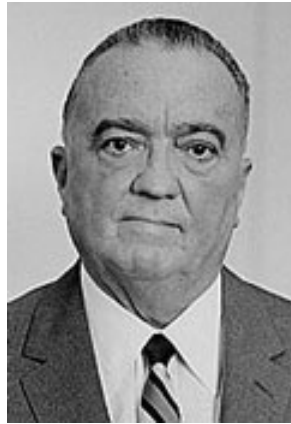
Col Bendetsen

Gen. Allen Gullion
Congressional Reps
Local media
Farmers Associations

Who opposed mass removal?



Atty Gen Biddle
(later capitulated)



J. Edgar
Hoover,
Dir. FBI



Edward Ennis.
DOJ, Dir AECU



Eleanor
Roosevelt

DOJ James Rowe, Asst AG
Army Gen. Mark Clark
CNO Adm Harold Stark

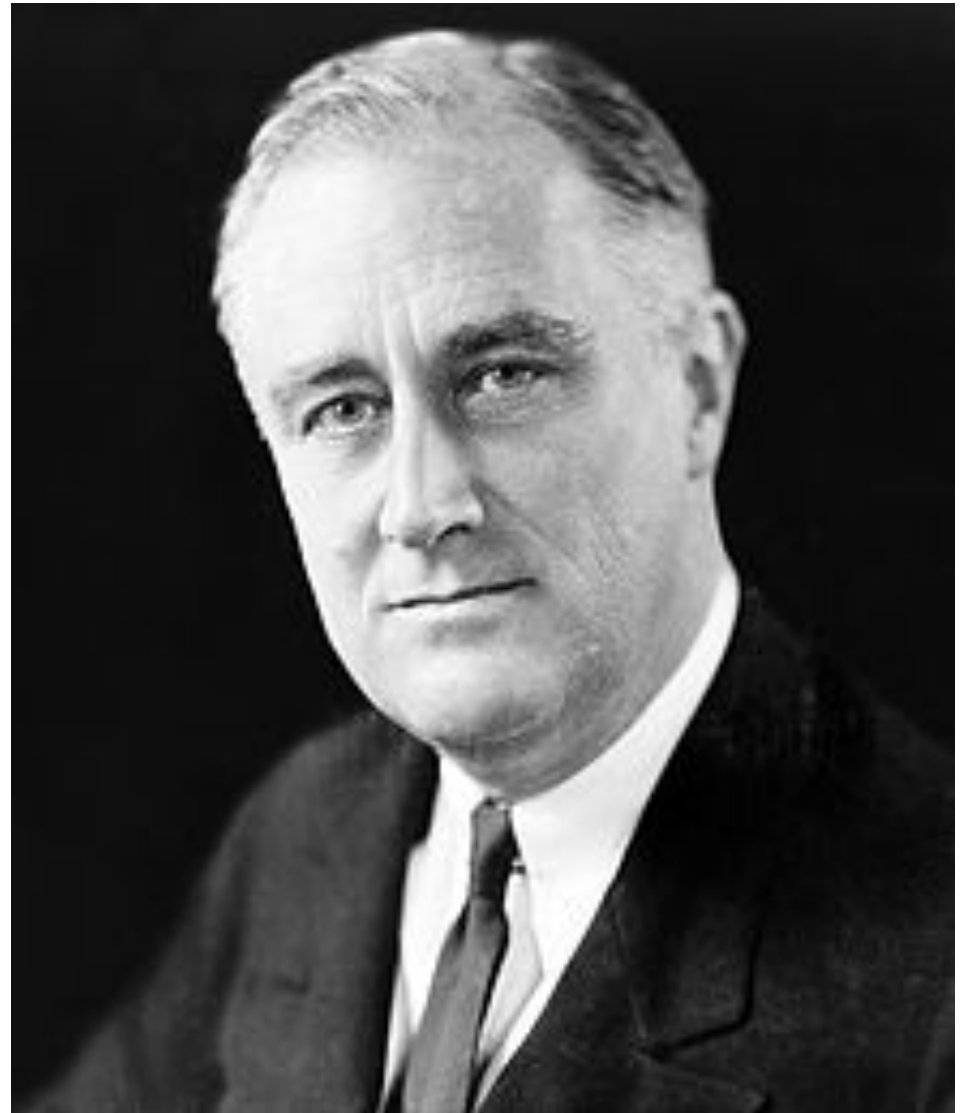
Why?

- Unconstitutional
- No need
- Humanitarian
- Resources needed for war

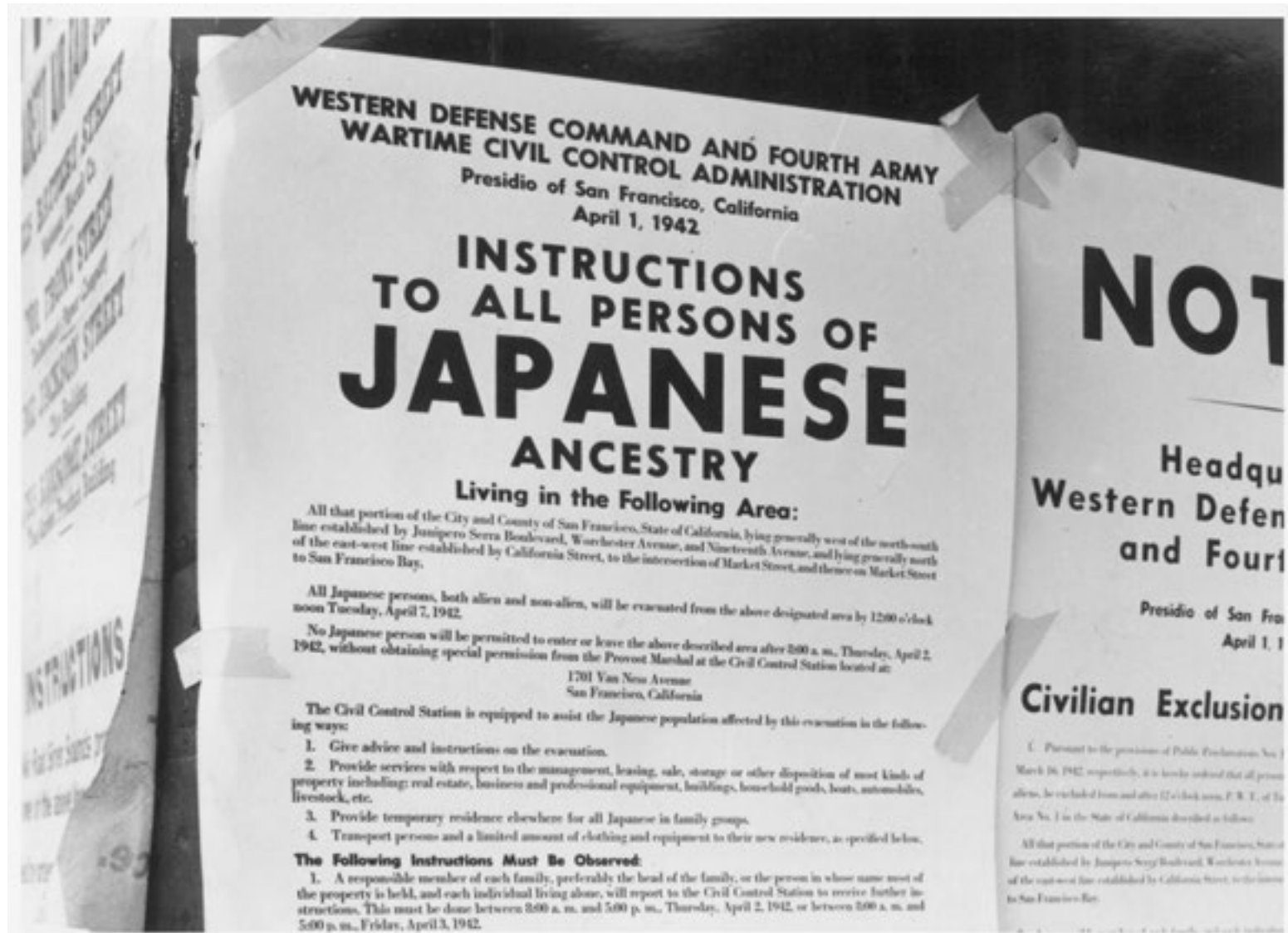


Who made the final decision and why?

- On Feb 11, 1942, Sec of War Stimson recommended mass removal.
- On Feb 19, 1942, FDR signed Executive Order 9066 - Exclusion
- Why?
 - Military necessity



Removal Notice, April 1, 1942





Why only Japanese in the U.S.?

- The 1940 U.S. Census showed:
 - 5,236,512 residents with German ancestry
 - 4,594,780 residents with Italian ancestry
- Mass imprisonment would require 1000 prison camps plus 100,000 soldiers to guard all camps

Plus removal of some famous Americans

Why not German or Italian Americans?

Answer: Racial Discrimination



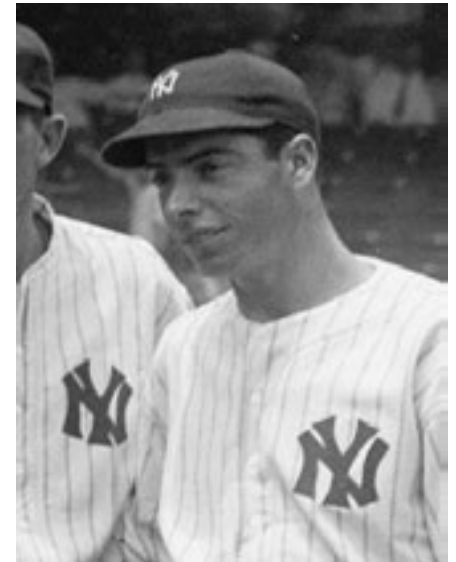
Marlon Brando



J. Edgar Hoover



Mayor LaGuardia



Joe DiMaggio



Armed military came to our neighborhood





Military Orders:

Confiscate

Exclusion

Curfew

Registration

Forced Removal





Landmark Cases



Fred Korematsu



Gordon Hirabayashi



Minoru Yasui



Why more JA' s did not challenge orders?

- 1st generation (Issei) culture
 - Obey authority
 - Accept decisions
 - Don' t demand justice
- 2nd generation (Nisei) culture
 - Challenge bad decisions
 - Demand justice
 - But most were too young



Merchandise packed and stored



Stores boarded up



Household furnishings moved





Buses were loaded, one suitcase per person





During Camp



Concentration Camp

- The [*Random House Dictionary*](#) defines the term "concentration camp" as: "a **guarded compound** for the detention or imprisonment of aliens, **members of ethnic minorities**, political opponents, etc."

Terminology

Government, 1942

Recent

Evacuation	➡	Forced Removal
Assembly Center	➡	Detention Facility
Relocation Center	➡	Concentration Camp, Prison
Internment	➡	Incarcerated
Internee	➡	Prisoner, Inmate

“Assembly Centers” were very crowded

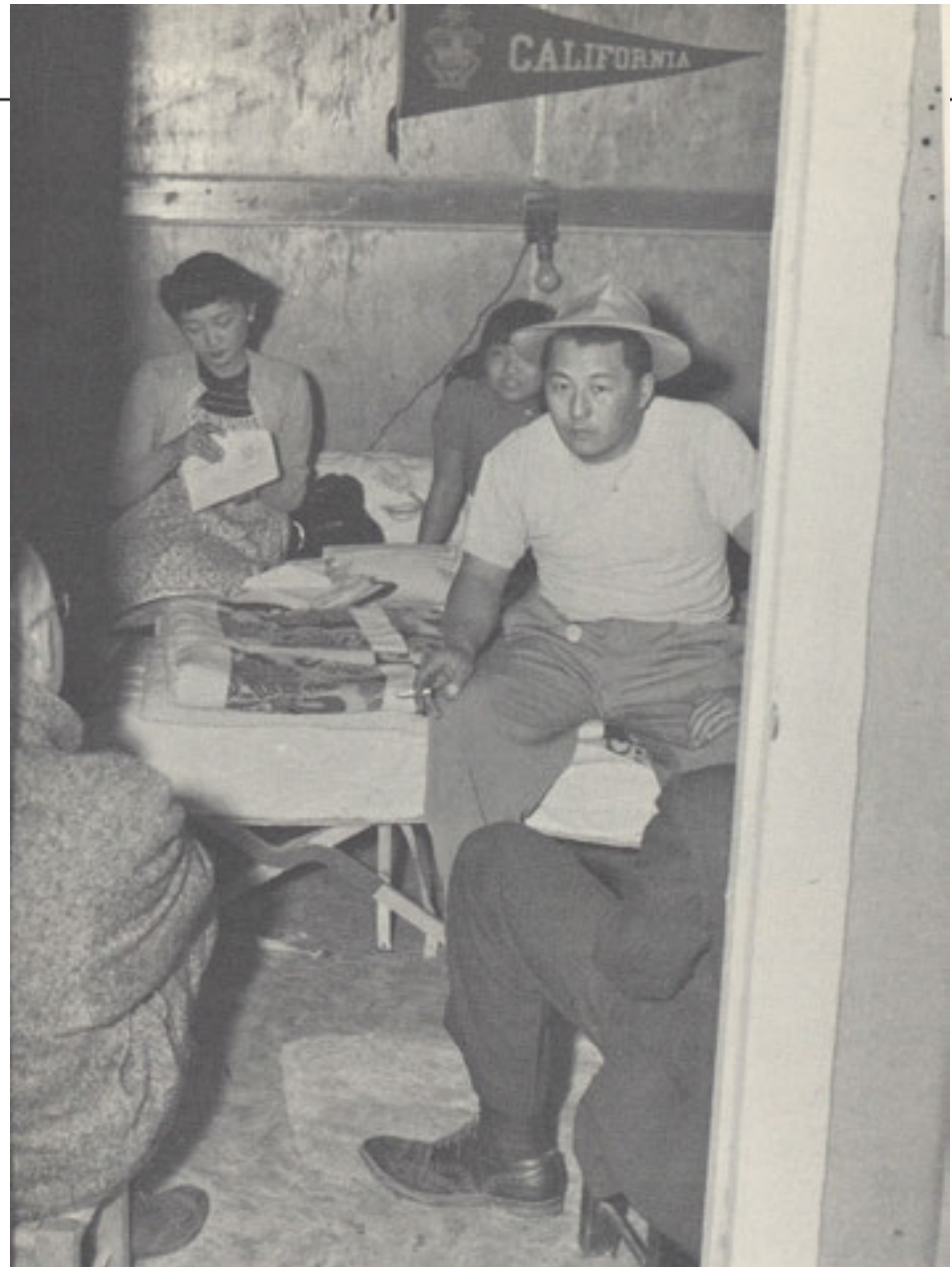




Some lived in horse stalls



**Inside horse stalls,
families were
packed**





Temporary shacks at Pomona





Not enough horse stalls—shacks built





A room inside shacks



Boarding train under armed guards



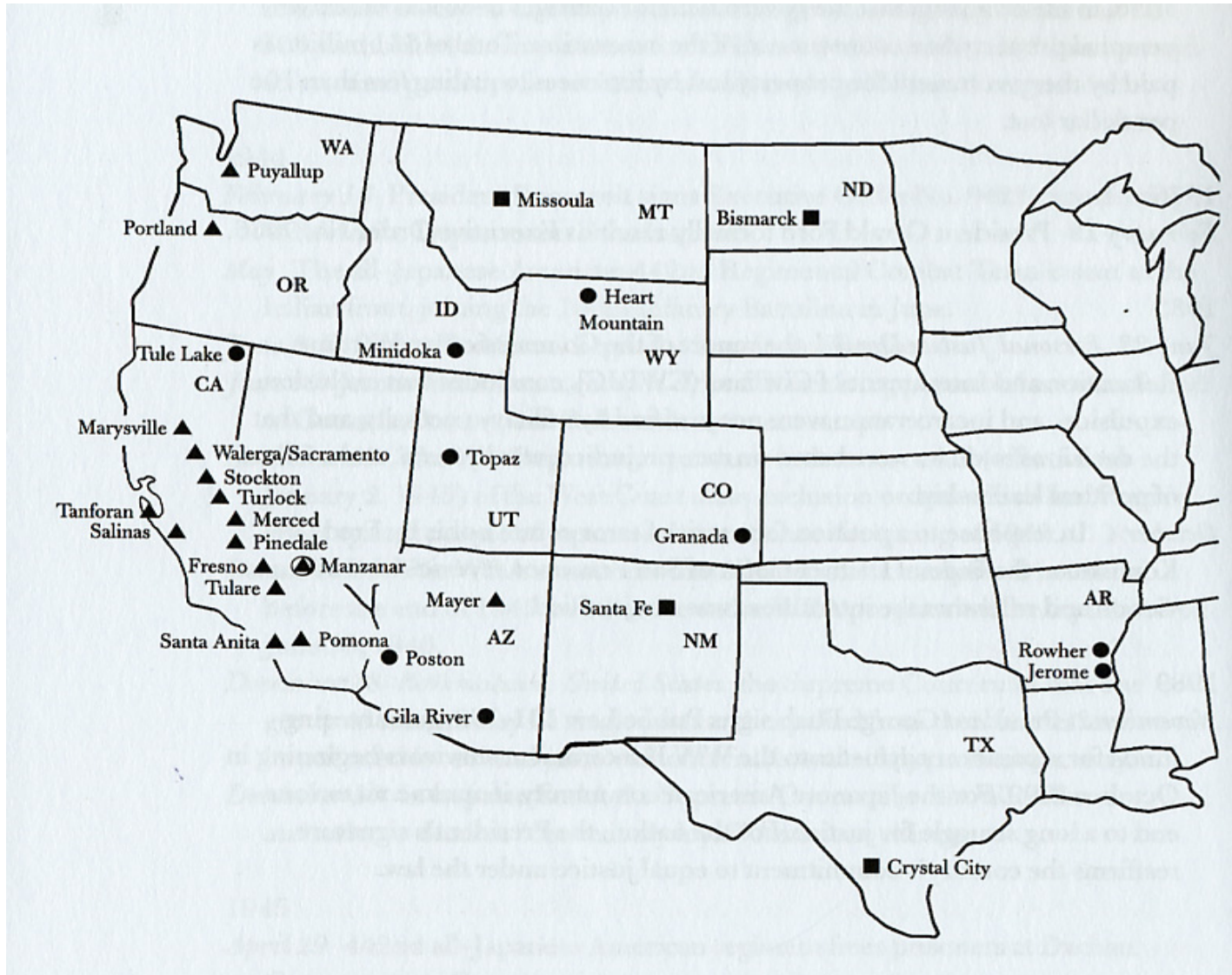


Do orphans have to go?

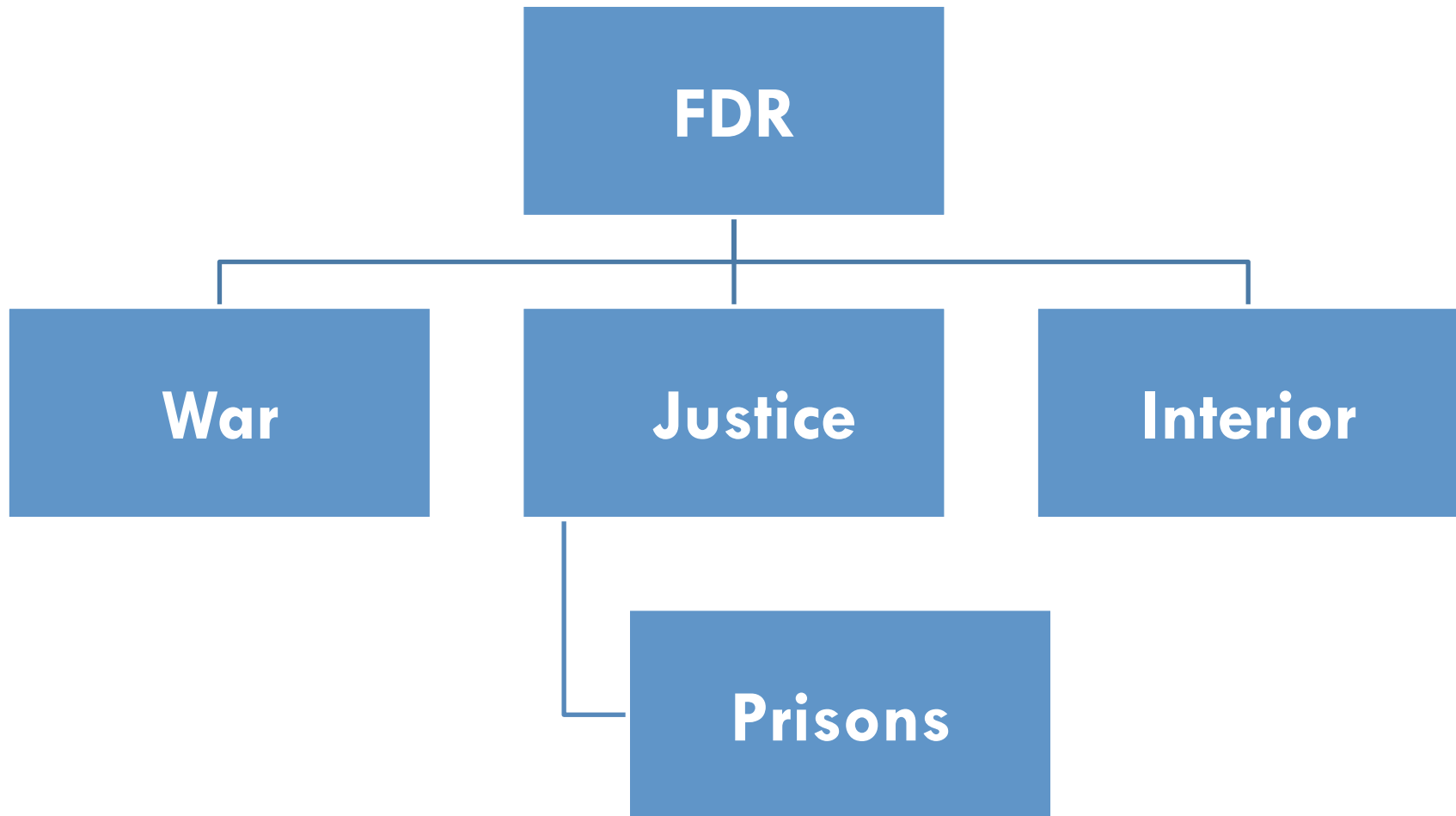
- Question sent to government
Answer by Bendetsen:
“If there is a drop of Japanese blood, they must go”
- All orphans sent to Manzanar Camp



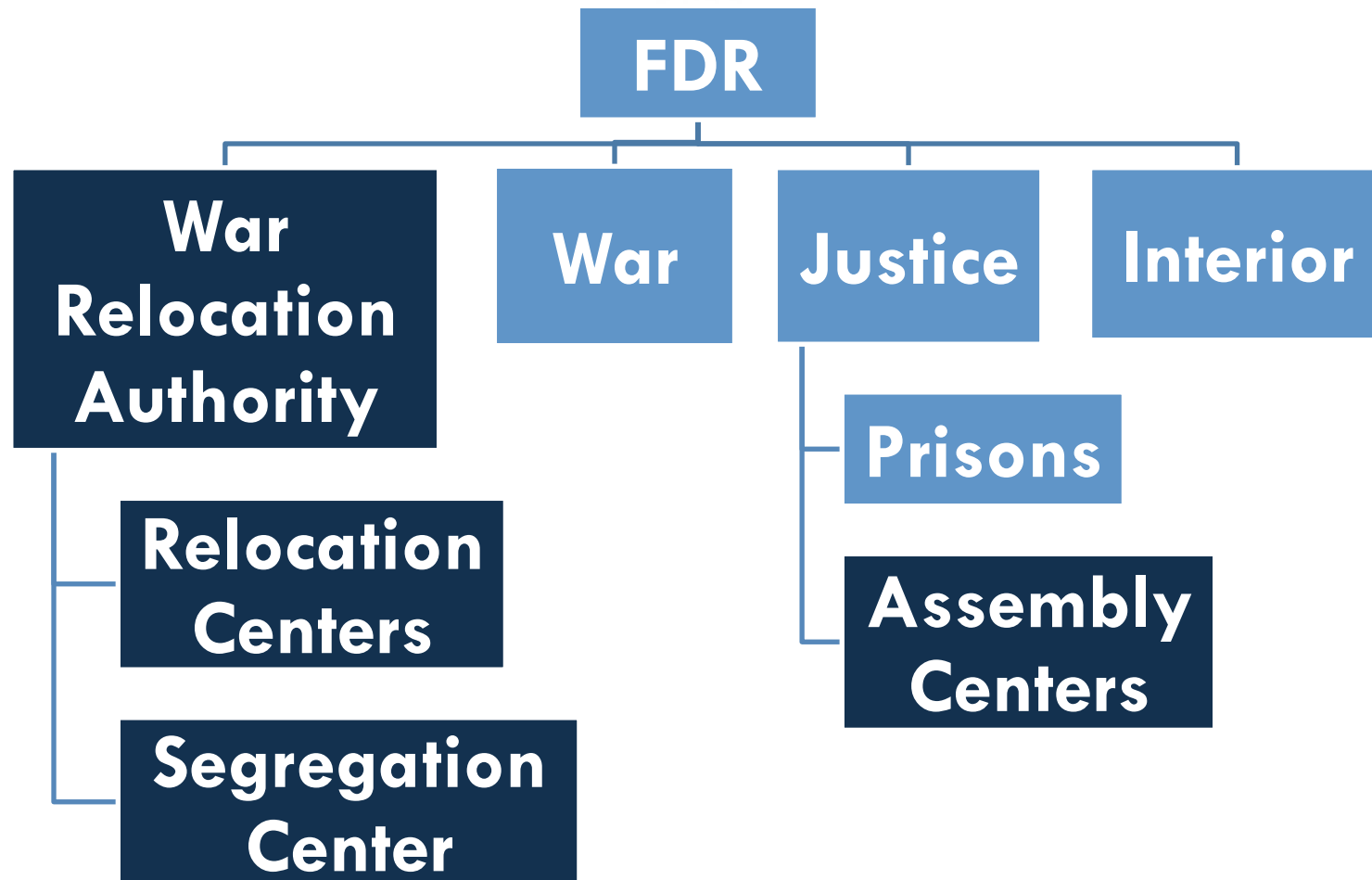
Three types of American Concentration Camps



Before camps started

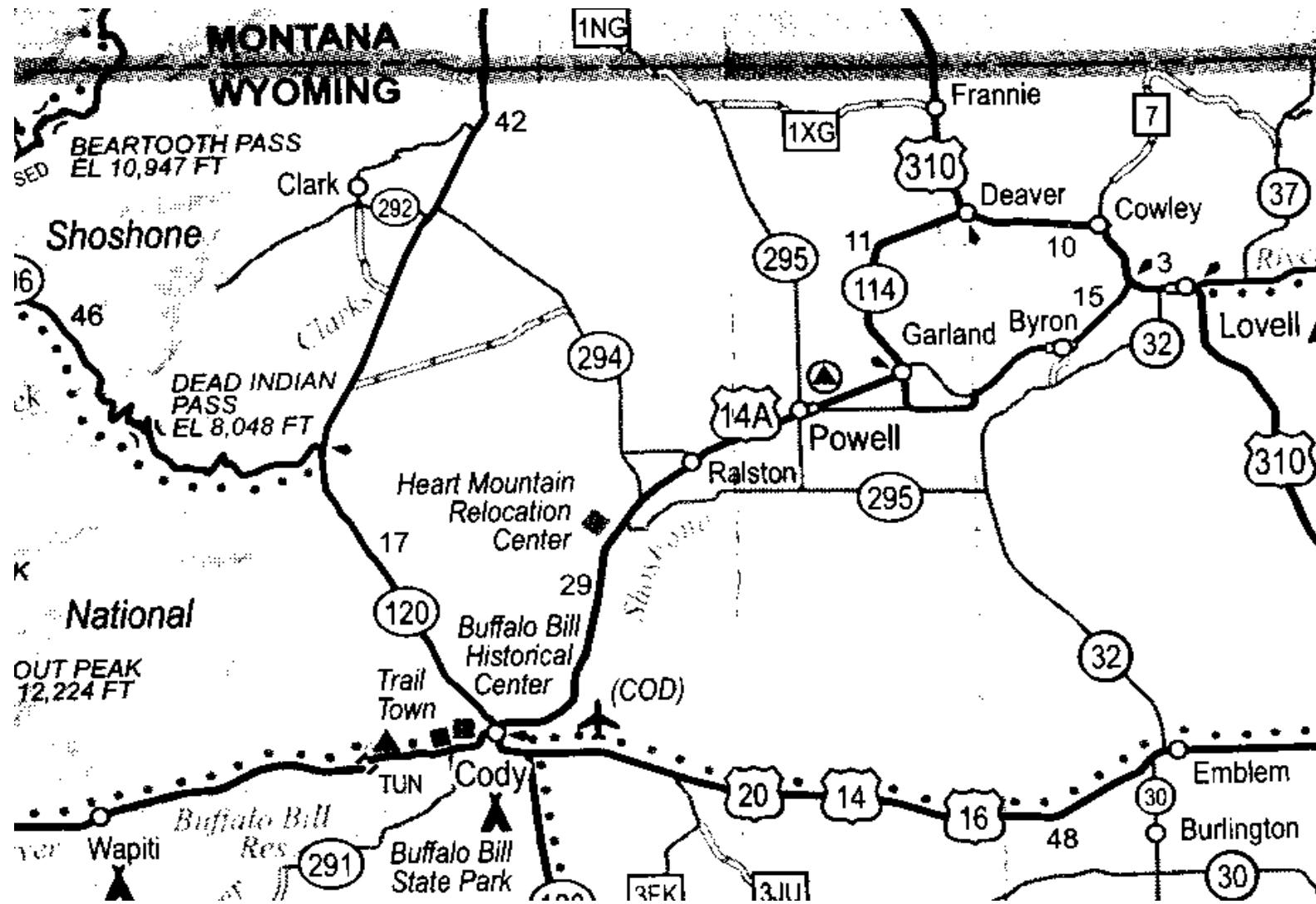


After camps started





Where is Heart Mountain?





Northwest Wyoming was desolate





Many workers built camp





Huge workforce rapidly built camps





Camp near complete in 2 months





Governors' conference, Salt Lake City, April 7, 1942

- AZ Sidney Osborn
- CA Culbert Olson
- CO Ralph Carr (JA's welcome)
- ID Chase Clark
- MT Sam Ford
- NM John Miles
- NV Edward Carville
- OR Charles Sprague
- UT Herbert Maw
- WA Arthur Langlie
- WY Nels Smith

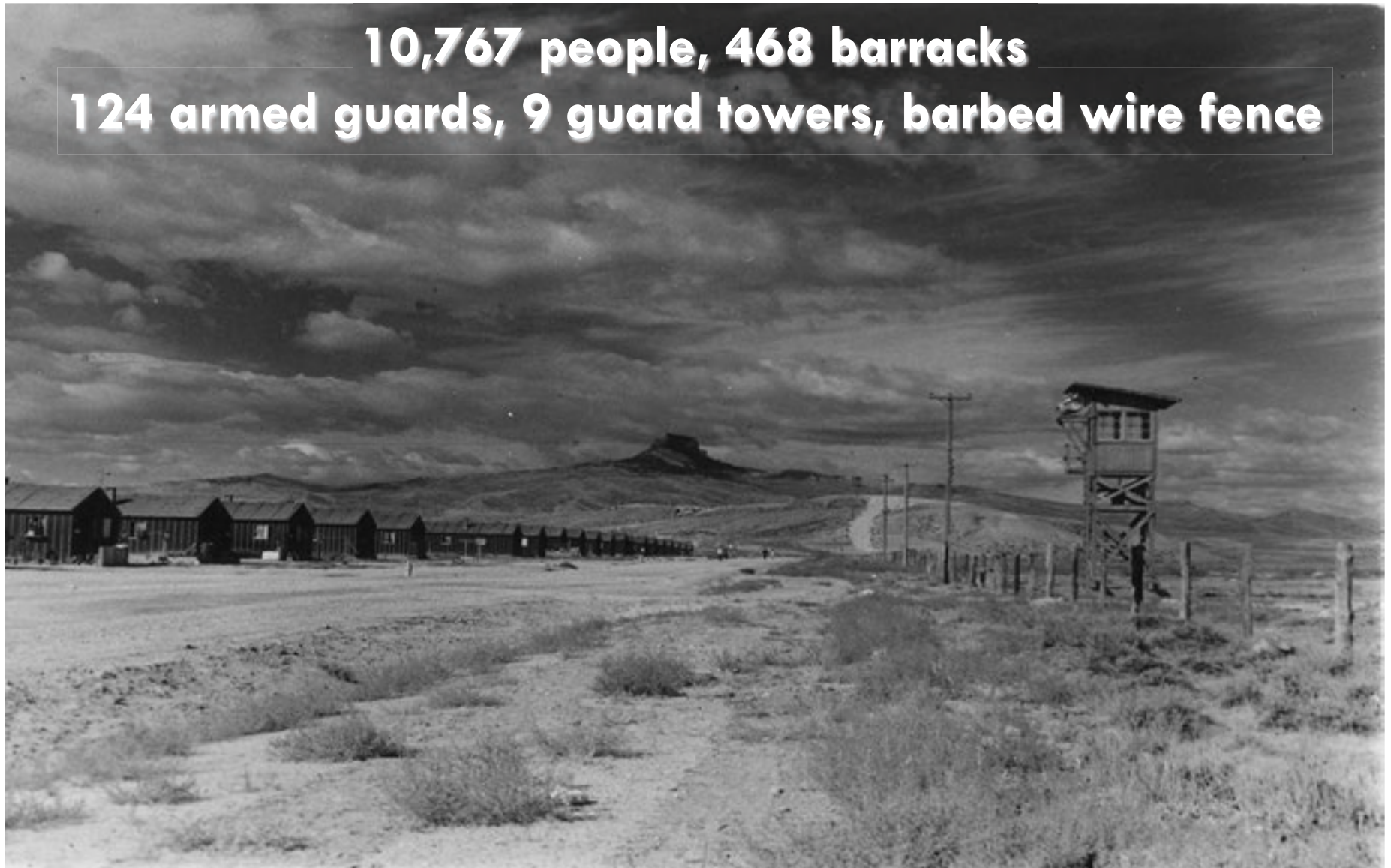
**Demanded
concentration camps
under military
guard.**



Heart Mountain Camp opens late summer, 1942

10,767 people, 468 barracks

124 armed guards, 9 guard towers, barbed wire fence





New arrivals met by camp guards



First train arrived August 11, 1942

**Handicapped
were carried off
on backs**





Some passed through windows





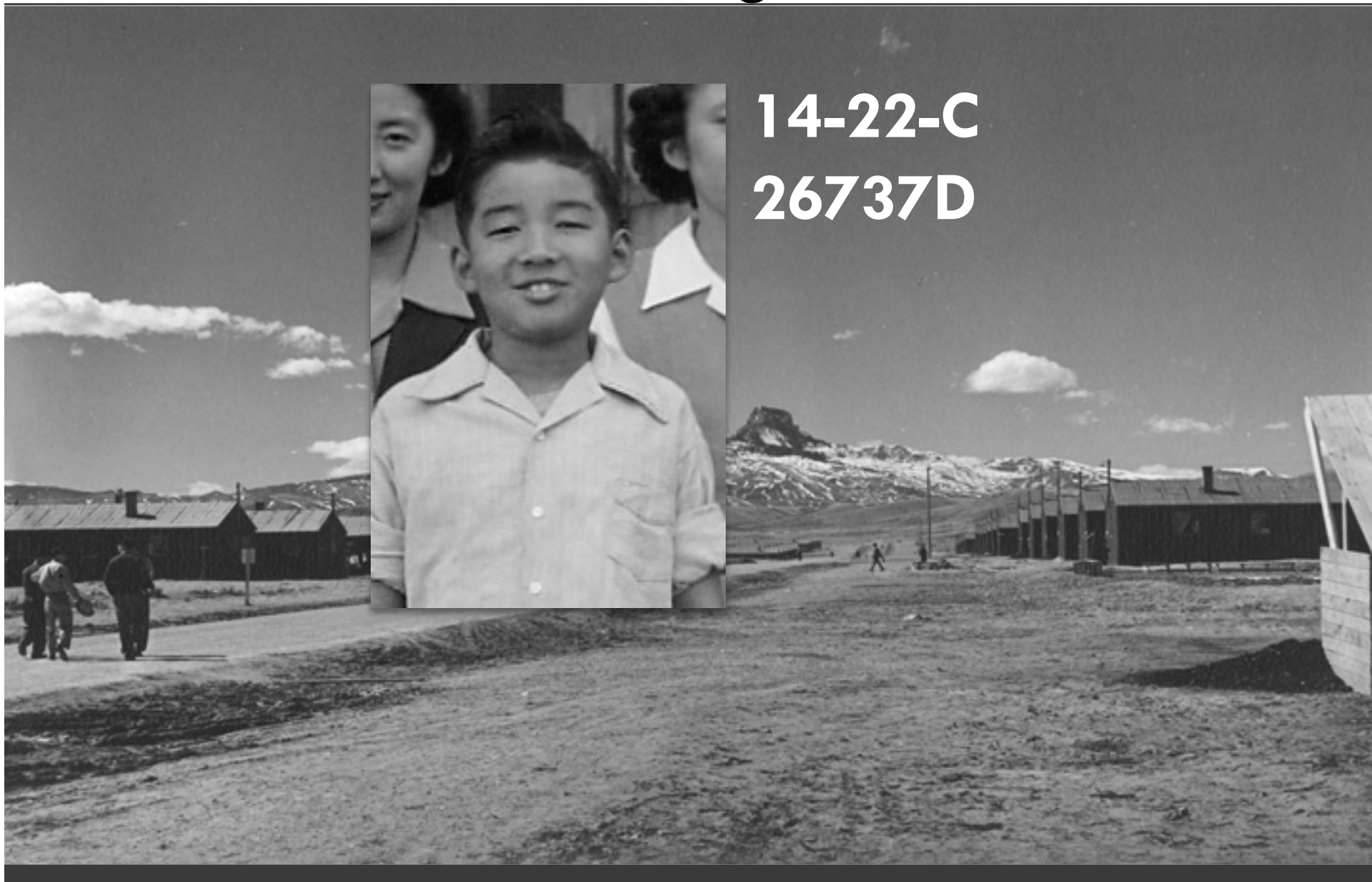
Boarding trucks to camp



Government Assigned Numbers



14-22-C
26737D





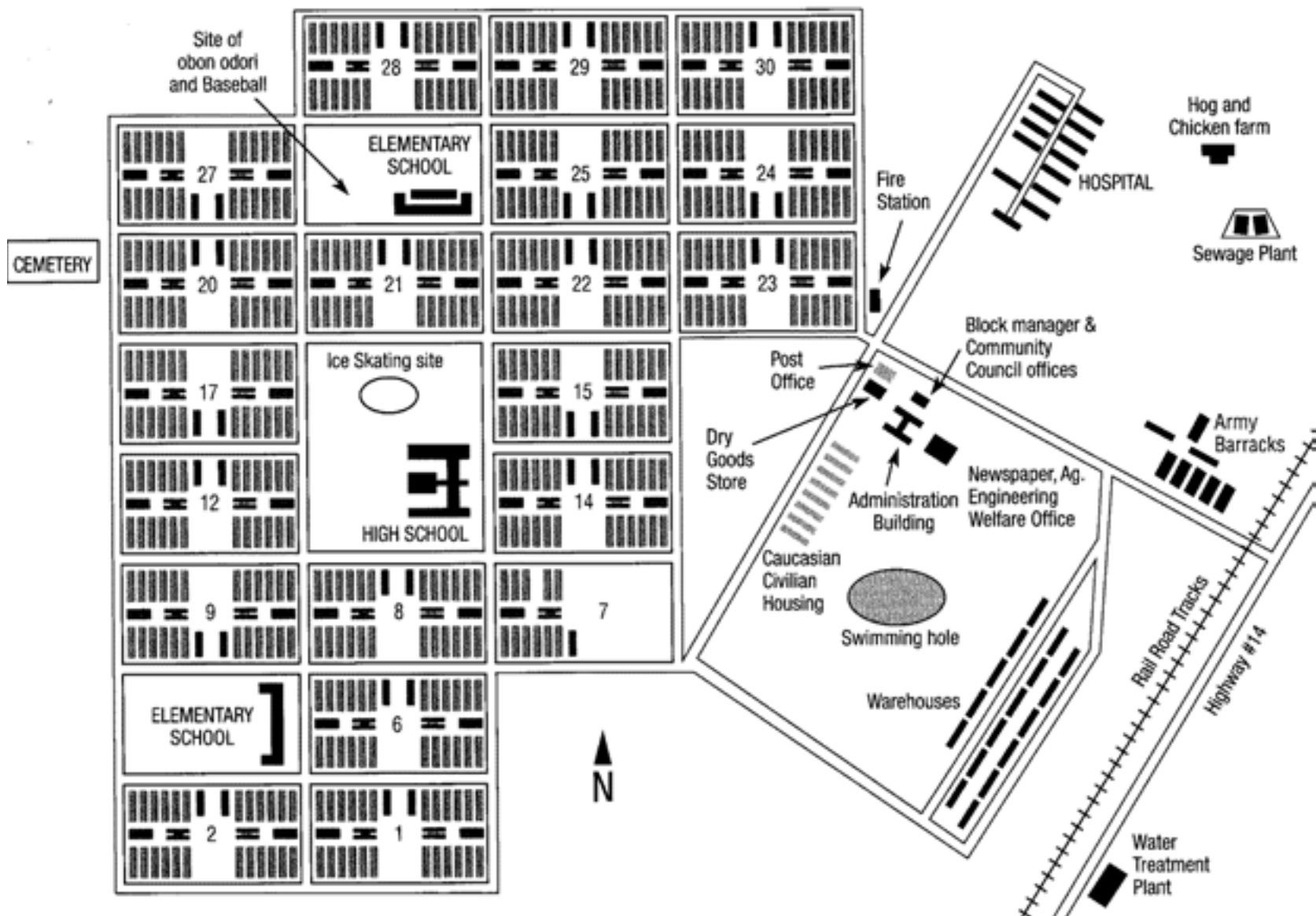
Imprisoned

“Warning - do not cross the fence”



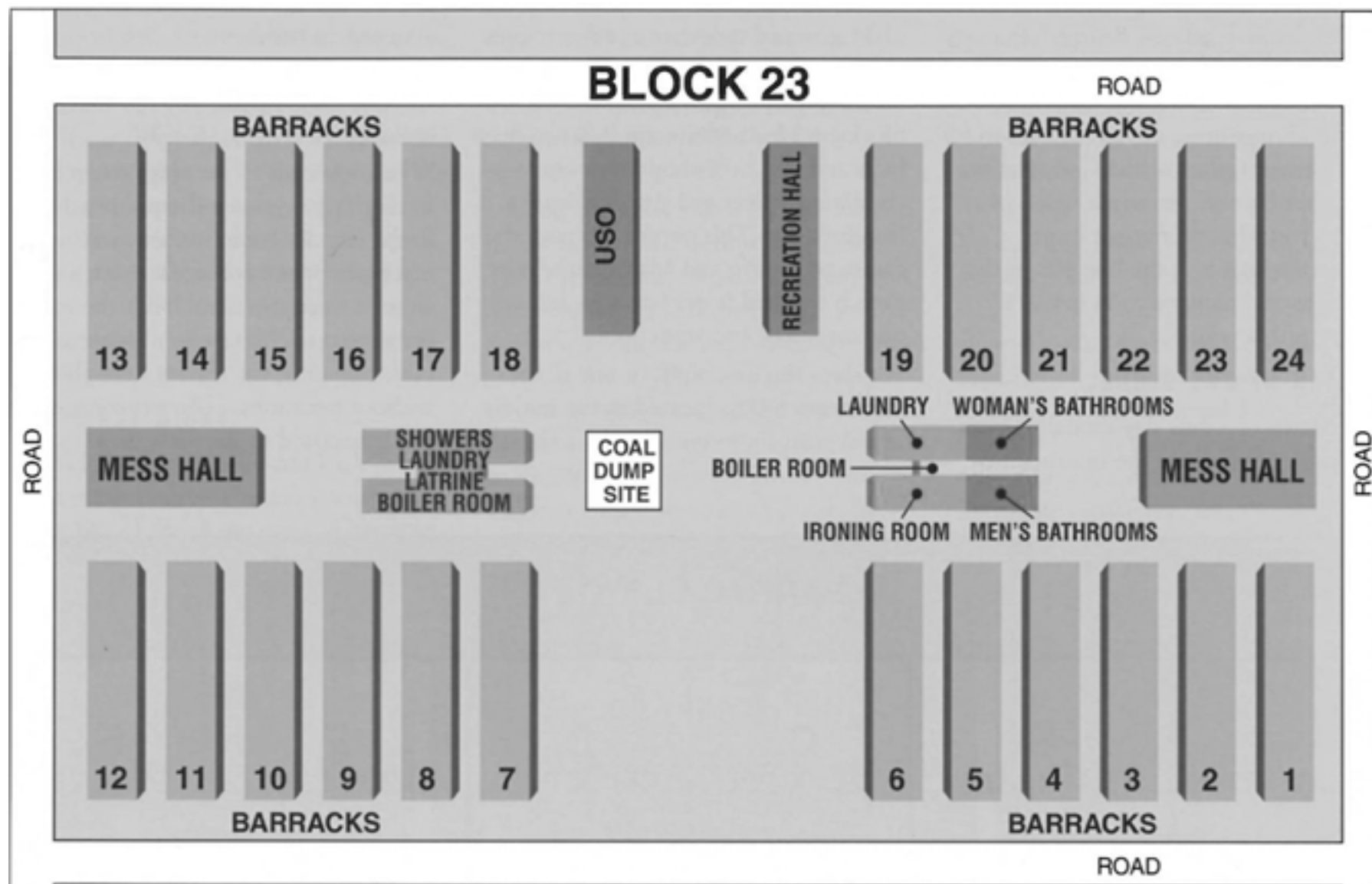


Heart Mountain Camp



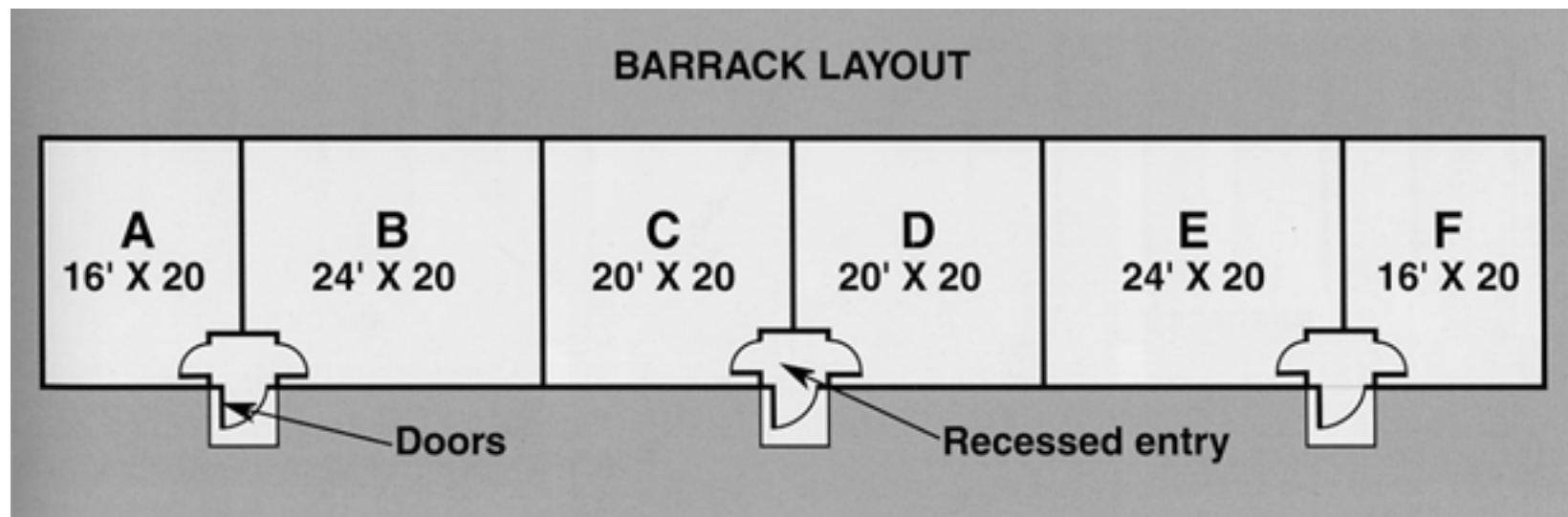


Block Layout





Plan view of barrack





Inside barrack room



**Al and Hal
Keimi
family,
1944**





**Bill
Shishima
family,
1943**





Our family in front of barrack





Eating in mess hall





Typical meals

Initially: (\$0.38 per day)

Bread and potatoes

Sometimes liver and mutton

Later:

Breakfast – toast, cereal, powdered milk,
sometimes bacon and eggs

Lunch – rice, cooked veggies

Dinner – rice, pickled veggies,
sometimes chicken or pork



**Californians
were not
prepared for
Heart
Mountain
winters.**





Record low temperatures

Heart Mountain Shivers: *Mercury Drops to 28 Below Zero*

(1/23/43) Winter is nearly over! Maybe! Although a new low of 28 degrees below zero was recorded Monday morning during the recent cold spell, this bit of optimism is based on figures taken at Cody by the Department of Agriculture weather bureau. During the three-year period beginning the winter of 1933-39, the mercury dropped below zero about 14 days per winter.

The longest stretch of continuous cold occurred during the first 10 days of 1942. To date nine sub-zero days have been recorded at the center's observation post and unless this winter proves unusually severe, another sub-zero spell, probably in February, will fill this winter's quota, if the weather runs true to form.

Date	High	Low	Pre.
Jan. 14	51	14	.
Jan. 15	50	38	
Jan. 16	45	-14	5
Jan. 17	-10	-19	T
Jan. 18	-8	-28	T
Jan. 19	-2	-28	
Jan. 20	13	-18	
Jan. 21	43	-17	T

T indicates less than one tenth of an inch precipitation





Toilets had no privacy



**We created
bedpans**





Greeted by poisonous critters





Innovative bathtubs





Jobs at camp paid \$12 to \$19 per month

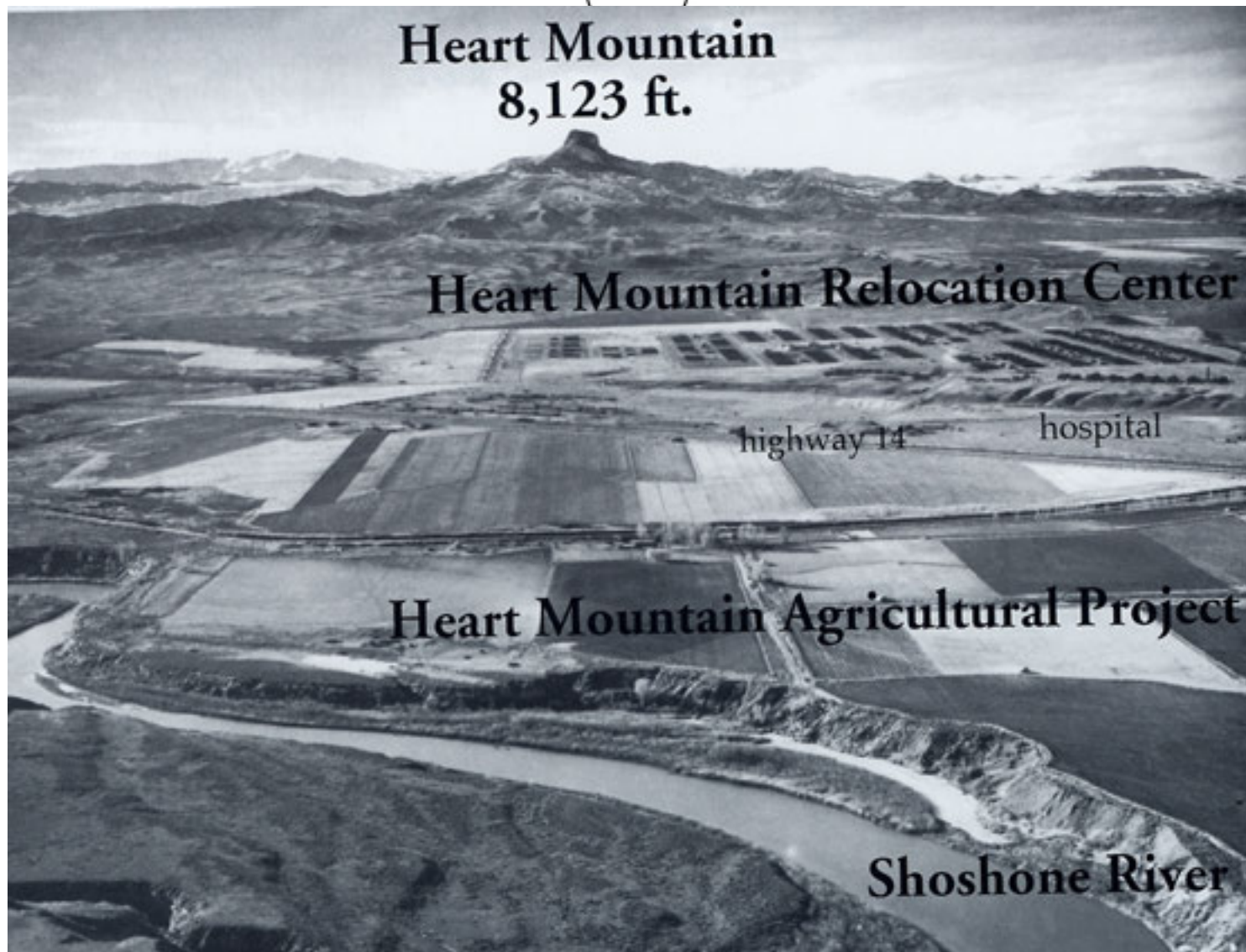




Scrap lumber used for furniture



Farms created next to camp





Existing canal was repaired and opened





Farming at camp

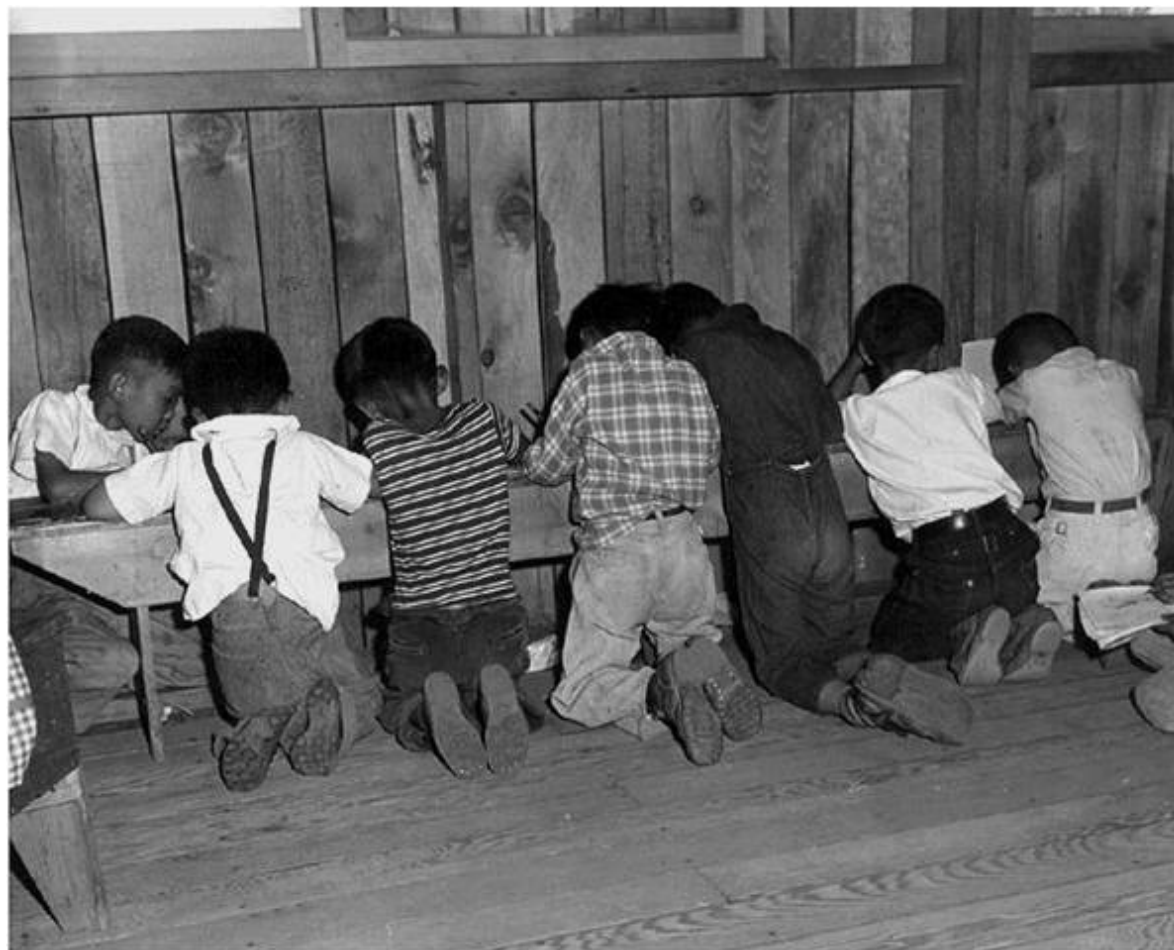


Many veggies were grown





Classrooms at start





Classes became better





33 white teachers hired, lived in camp



Japanese chess was played





Boy and Girl Scout Troops

Senator Alan Simpson and
Congressman Norman Mineta
met in camp as boy scouts





Football, baseball and basketball were very popular





Swimming hole used in summer





Many learned to ice skate





Japanese theater company





Modern jazz band performed



Couples were married



Babies were born – 550 over 3 years





High risk of fires





Camp Fire Department



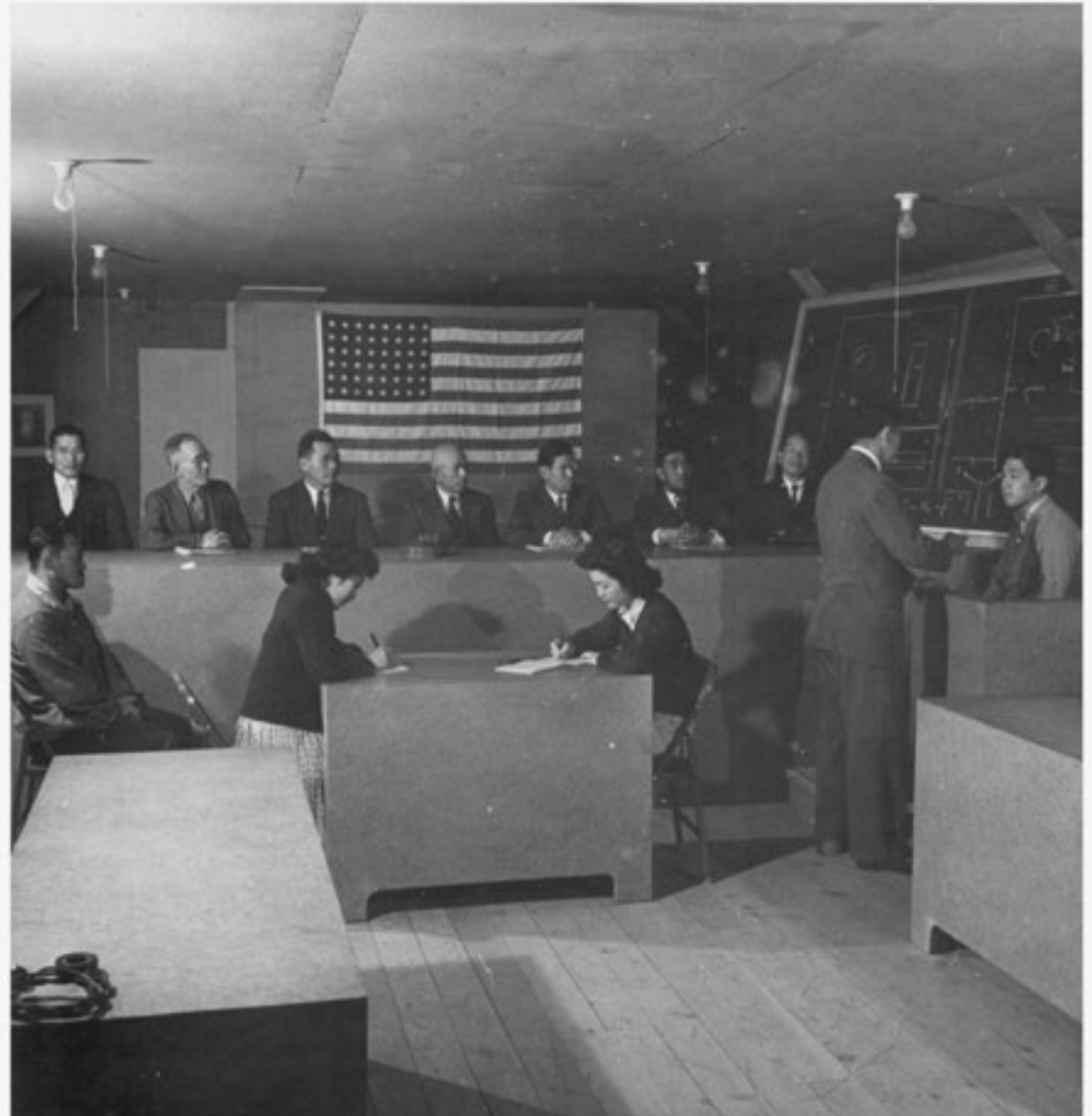
Camp had police force





Camp justice system:

Courts and judges implemented U.S. system





Three issues during camp

- **Loyalty
Questionnaire**
- **Renunciants**
- **Military Draft**



Loyalty Questionnaire

**Q. 27 – Are you willing to
serve in the armed forces
wherever ordered?**



Loyalty Questionnaire

**Q. 28 – Will you swear
unqualified allegiance to the
USA and forswear any
allegiance to the Japanese
Emperor?**



Loyalty Questionnaire

**Q. 28 – Will you swear unqualified
allegiance to the USA? and
forswear any allegiance to the
Japanese Emperor?**

96% answered yes.

No-No's sent to Tule Lake California Camp



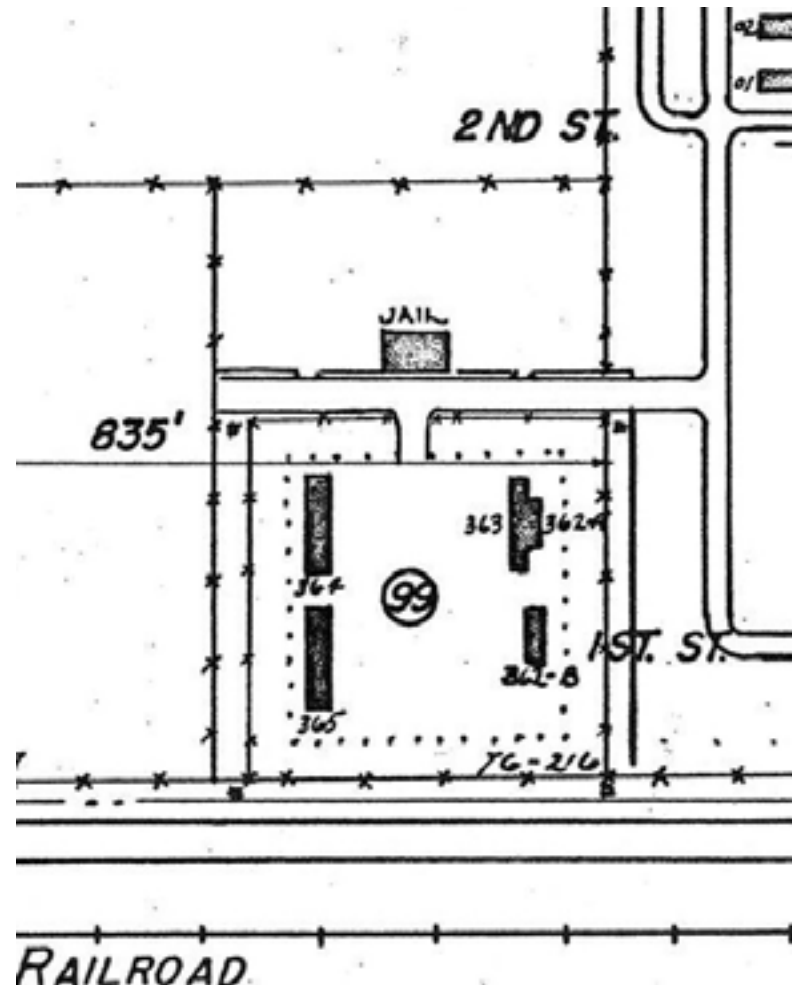
Tule Lake was massive





Most infamous was the Stockade

- Some prisoners were strongly loyal to Japan
- Formed an organized effort to solicit new members
- Camp administrators sought to identify ringleaders
- Brought 450 prisoners to Stockade.



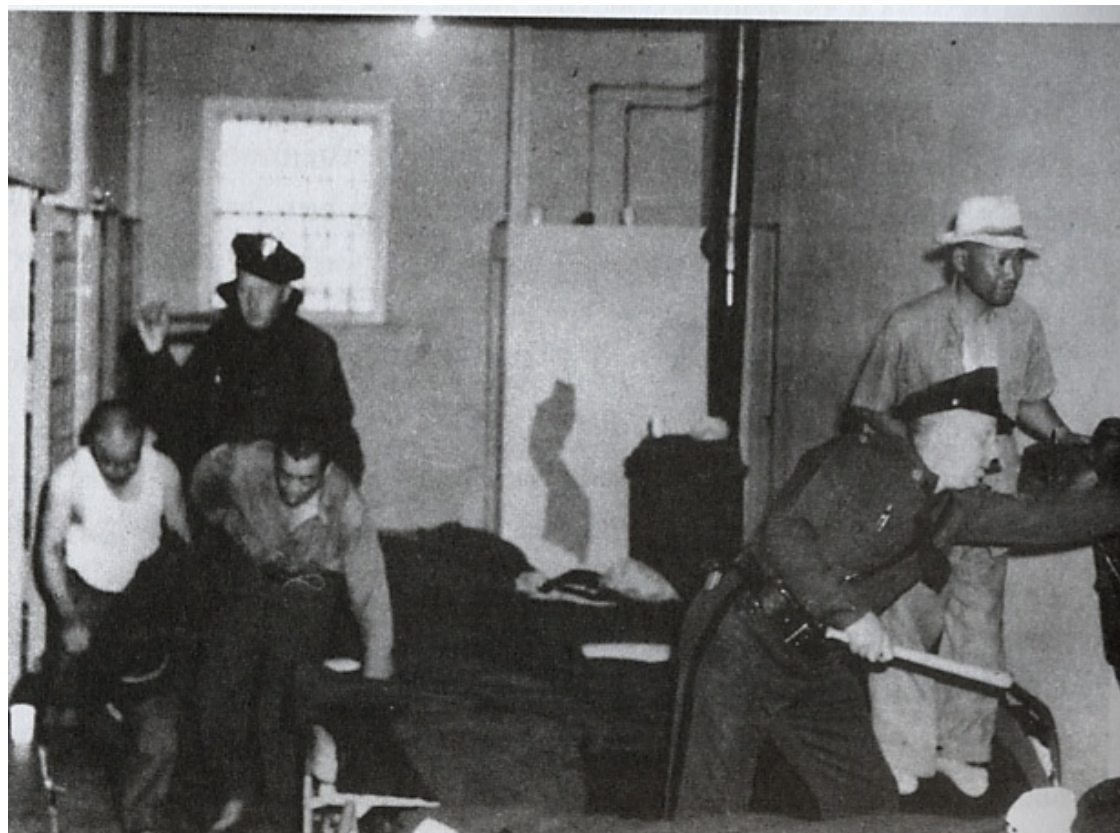


Tule Lake Camp had brutality





**Some
prisoners
were beaten**





Military draft came to camps





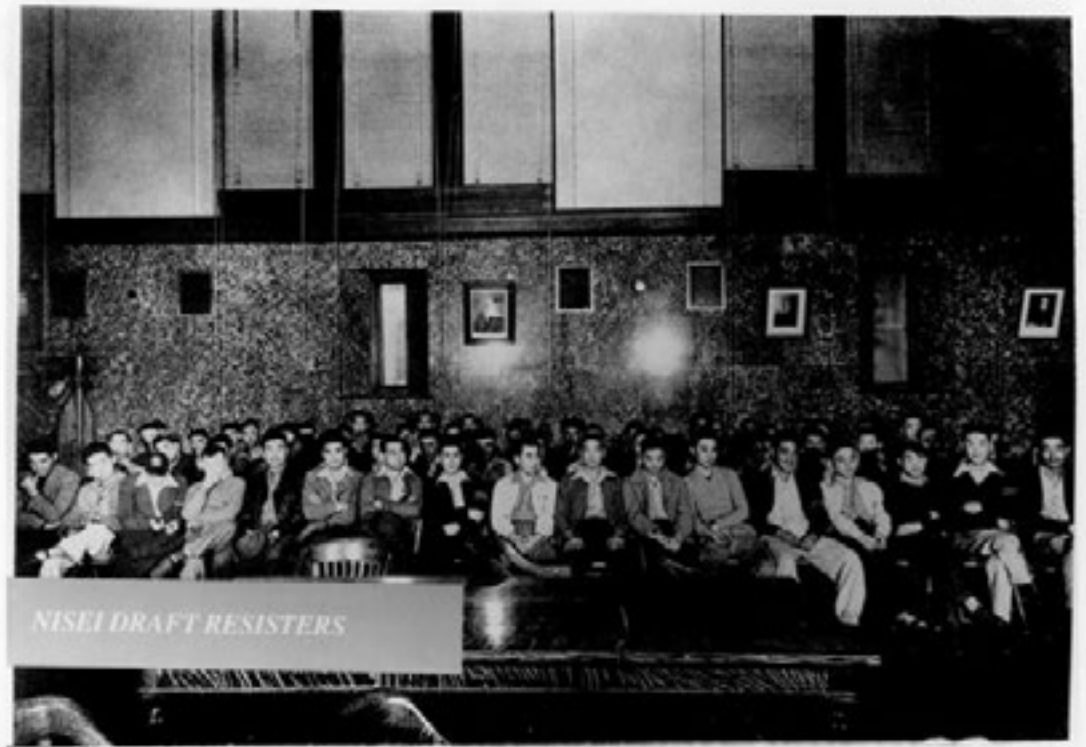
Many were from Heart Mountain



- 758 drafted
- 49 wounded
- 13 killed in action

Draft resisters sentenced

- 83 resisters sentenced
- Pres. Truman granted full pardon Dec 24, 1947
- Many fought in Korean war.



**Total of 33,300
Japanese Americans
served in U.S.
military**



Hospital at camp

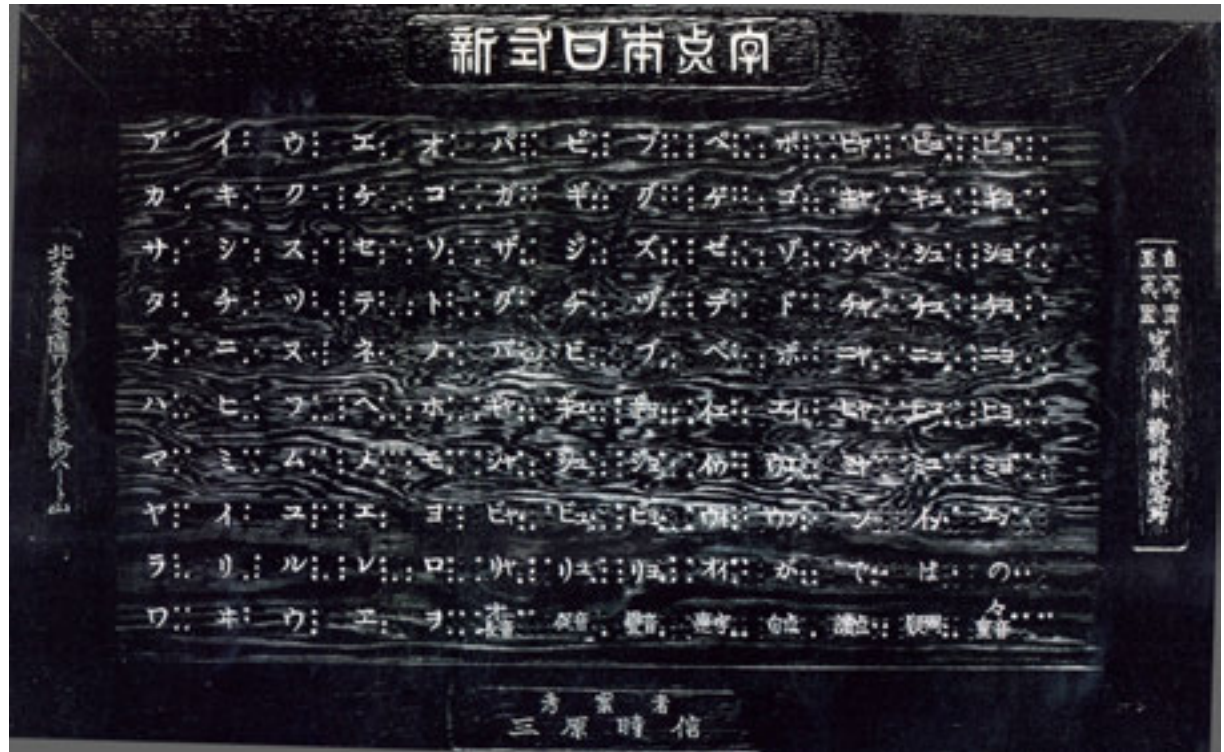


Resident doctors paid \$19 per month
Hired nurses paid \$150 per month



Our family had health problems







Our family had health problems





Funeral at Heart Mountain





Grandmother grieving





Downtown Cody in early 1940s





Wyoming prohibitions in 1940's

- No voting
- No land ownership
- No licenses
- Governor threatened escapees





Many visitors came to camps

- In 1943, Eleanor Roosevelt visited Gila, AZ camp
- Encouraged prisoners to resettle





James Purcell and Mitsuye Endo Case

- SF Attorney James Purcell
- Endo in camp, had perfect record
- Filed habeas corpus petition
- Sup. Ct. Dec 18, 1944
- Government has no authority to continue detention of loyal citizens
- **Release Endo and all prisoners**





**In late 1945,
trains departed
to take us home**

**Last train left on
November 10**





After Camp



Financially we were devastated

- Very little money
- Dad had no job
- Mother worked as a domestic
- Damaged and missing property
- Some became slumlords





Heart Mountain Camp closed Nov 15, 1945





Homesteader Program History

- In 1862, Homestead Act started by President Lincoln.
- Allocate federal land
- 1.6 million homesteads granted over 100 years
- 420,000 square miles



Homesteads at Heart Mountain

- At Heart Mountain,
Homesteads were created -
 - Shoshone Irrigation Project
 - Nation-wide promotion of
drawing / interview system
 - After camp closed,
homestead drawings held
from 1946 to 1950



Homesteader Requirements

- WWII veterans
- Experience and \$2,000
- 34,000 acres
- 80 to 150 acre parcels
- 1000 applicants interviewed
- 215 selected
- Title transferred after 3 years successful development

Homesteaders' developments

- Housing
- Crops – alfalfa, potatoes, beans, sugar beets
- Cattle, poultry, eggs



Pl. 75. Luzerne cultivée, *Medicago sativa* L.



Barracks sold for \$1 each

- Condition – sold as is
- 2 barracks per homesteader
- Move at own expense
- Converted into many uses:
 - Storage
 - Stores
 - Homes

Storage barrack near Cody



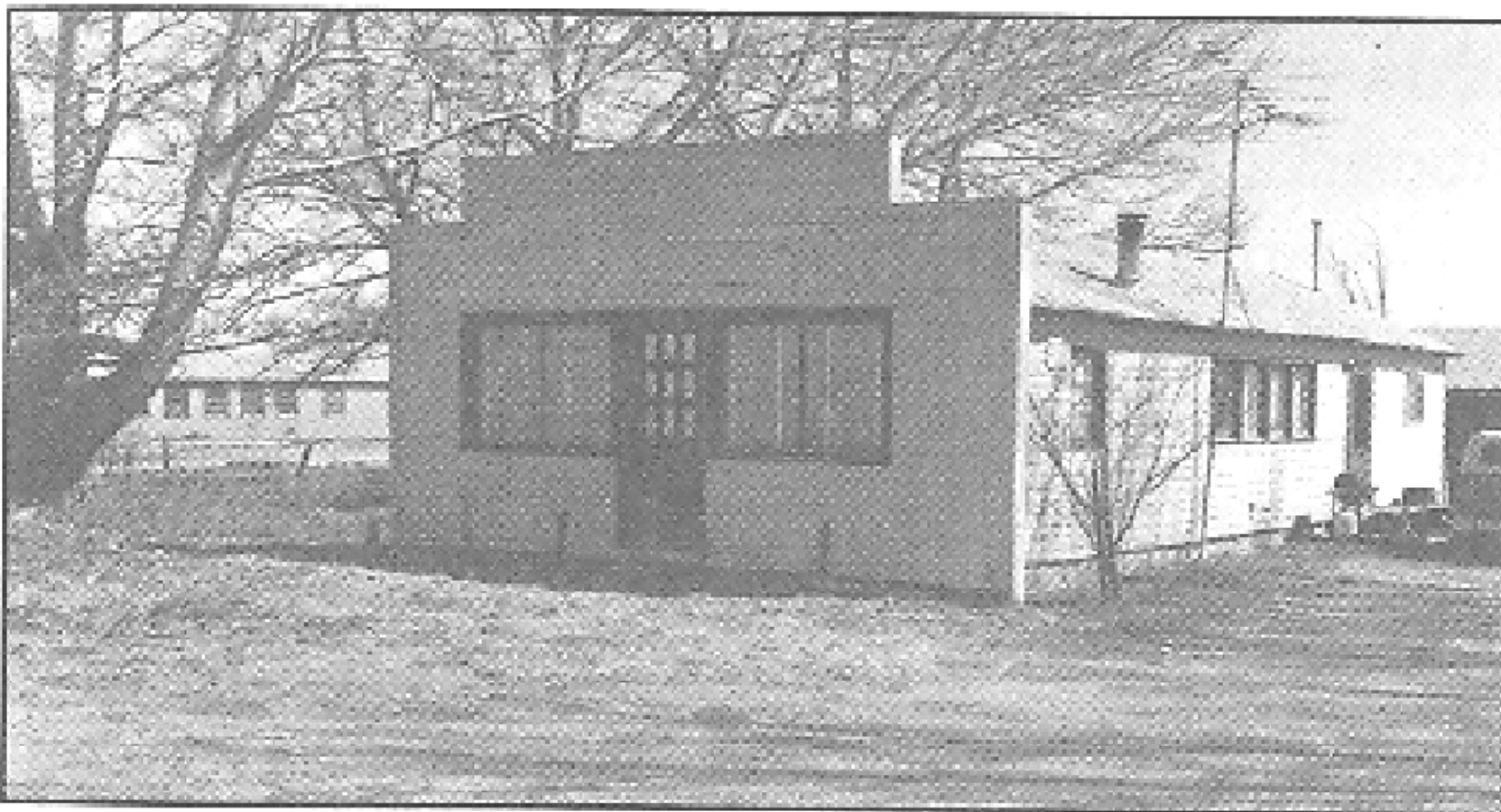


Close-up shows gaps





The Adams barrack





Barrack converted into store and home

- Harvey and Dora Adams
- Three children: Jerry, Ellen, Pam
- Won draw in 1949
- Hospital barrack, included latrine
- Moved for \$300
- Built store and home
- Quit in 1952

Homesteaders Wally and Evaleen George

- From Cedar City, Utah
- Applied Sept 1946
- Awarded Feb 1947
- Moved into camp
- Cut 2 barracks in half
- Moved for \$75 each
- Brought drinking water from camp
- Drilled well
- Electricity in Feb 1949
- Modified barrack



George family developed property



Barrack converted into home





A very comfortable home



With homey touches



Evaleen George has a large family

- Homesteader 1947
- 8 children
- 58 grandchildren
 - (29 married)
- 152 great grandchildren
(10 more expected)





George family in front of barrack





How successful was Heart Mountain Homesteaders?

- National average of Homesteader Program = 40% succeeded in title transfer
- Heart Mountain = 75% successful transfer



Organized Legal Steps



In 1981, Peter Irons and Dale Minami led team

- Team of 40 lawyers
- Filed lawsuit to reverse Korematsu, Hirabayashi and Yasui convictions





A major finding

- 3-year research
- Found falsified reports
- Found suppressed reports
- Attorneys filed coram nobis petition



Peter Irons



Dale Minami



Aiko Herzig-Yoshinaga



What Aiko found – Smoking Gun

- 3 years of search
- Discovered 2 versions of DeWitt report
- Rare original report
- Final edited report
- Both had false statements, but -
- Comparison showed
 - Deleted statements
 - Added false statements





Suppressed Evidence – The Ringle Report

- Navy Lt. Cmdr. Kenneth D. Ringle, ONI, and FBI Special Agent Robert Shivers led 75 experts.
 - Most 1st generation Japanese (Isseis) arrived in US 1900 to 1920.
 - Last of Isseis entered in 1924
 - In late 30' s Isseis were too old for Intel training .
 - A few, about 300 loyal to Japan, were in detention.
 - Most of 2nd generation (Nisei) are loyal to US.
-



Suppressed Evidence – The Ringle Report

- Some went to Japan for education (Kibeis) and returned to US.
- 1400 Kibeis now in detention.
- No arrests for espionage or sabotage.
- The problem is under control.
- Remaining Japanese Americans are loyal citizens – therefore, **do not detain**.

Korematsu, Hirabayashi, Yasui cases revisited



- Decision was unjust
- **Prior convictions vacated**
(1983, 1986, 1987)



The Redress Movement

The Damages:

- Forced removal
- Confinement
- Lack of due process
- Lost / damaged property
- Anti-Japanese legislation



The Redress Movement

Efforts to obtain:

- Restitution of civil rights
- An apology
- Monetary compensation

Efforts covered 50-year span
From 1941 to 1991



Redress Milestones

1942 – Protesters (Korematsu, et al)

1943, 1944 – Loyalty questionnaire
and draft resisters

1945 – Demand financial redress
before leaving camps

1952 – McCarren-Walter Act
(naturalization of Isseis) and repeal of
alien land laws



Redress Milestones

1960' s to 1970' s – growing momentum for civil rights

1976 – Rescission of EO 9066

1978 – At Salt Lake City, JACL passes resolution for redress

1978 – JACL creates Redress Committee

1979 – National Council for Redress (NCJAR) created



Redress Milestones

1980 – Creation of Commission on
Wartime Relocation and Internment of
Civilians (CWRIC)

1980 – Creation of National Coalition for
Redress / Reparations (NCRR)

1983- CWRIC Report identifies causes
for detention and recommends redress,
but limit to living victims.



Redress bill introduced in Congress

- Nov. 28, 1979 by Rep. Michael Lowry (WA)
- Recognize injustice, included an apology and money,
- But added education

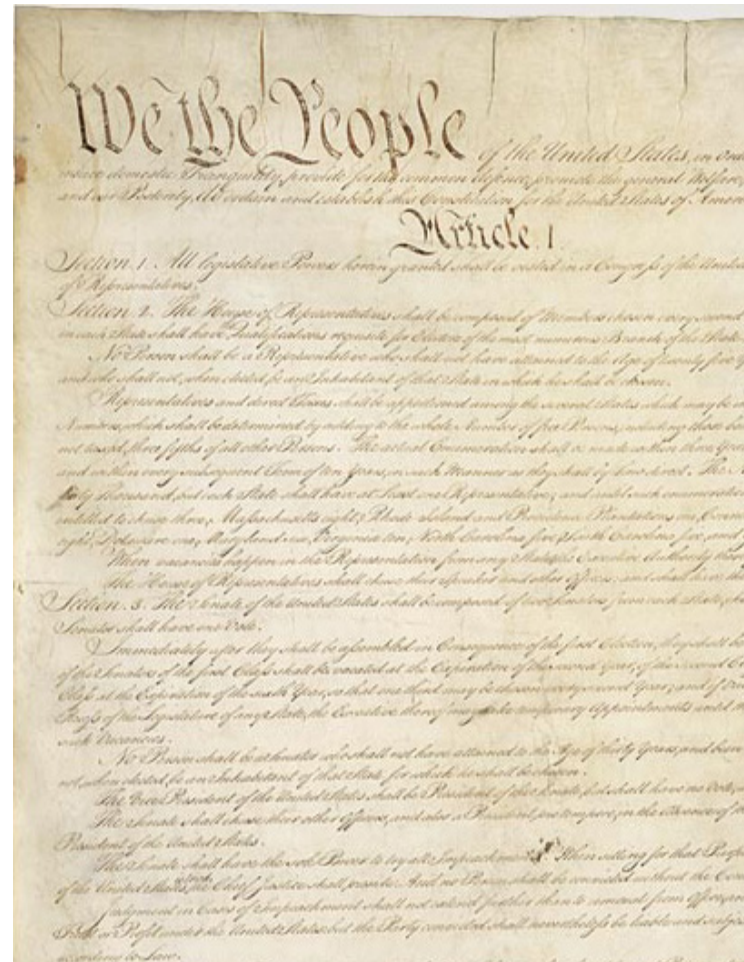


Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians (CWRIC)

- June 16, 1983 findings:
 - Apologize
 - Pardon those convicted
 - Review JA' s applications for restitution
 - Provide money for education
 - Appropriate \$20,000 to each person

Smithsonian exhibit opened October 1, 1987

A More Perfect Union





Final congressional vote

- House voted to pass 243 to 141 = win
- Senate voted to pass 69 to 27 = win
- Now up to President Reagan



Last major hurdle – Pres. Reagan



N.J. Governor
Thomas Kean



Staff Sgt.
Kaz Masuda



Army Captain
Ronald Reagan

Civil Liberties Act of 1988

President Reagan signs the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 into law,
August 10, 1988



Civil Liberties Act of 1988

signed by
President Ronald Reagan
August 10, 1988

- Acknowledge injustice
- Apologize
- Provide education
- Restitution
- Recommends pardons
- Discourage future injustices
- Support human rights in other nations

*TO SAM: TO A GREAT FRIEND WHO'S A
STRONG BELIEVER IN THIS GREAT NATION !!*

*WIT MY warmest personal regards,
NORM MINETA,
MEMBER OF CONGRESS*

SEPT. 12, 1988

PUBLIC LAW 100-503—AUG. 10, 1988 102 STAT. 303
Public Law 100-503
100th Congress

An Act
To implement recommendations of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians
As enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled.

SECTION 1. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this Act are to—

- (1) acknowledge the fundamental injustice of the evacuation, relocation, and internment of United States citizens and permanent resident aliens of Japanese ancestry during World War II;
- (2) apologize on behalf of the people of the United States for the evacuation, relocation, and internment of such citizens and permanent resident aliens;
- (3) provide for a public education fund to finance efforts to inform the public about the internment of such individuals so as to prevent the recurrence of any similar event;
- (4) make restitution to those individuals of Japanese ancestry who were interned;
- (5) make restitution to Aleut residents of the Pribilof Islands and the Aleutian Islands west of Unalaska Island, in settlement of United States obligations in equity and at law, for—
 - (A) injuries suffered and unreasonable hardships endured while those Aleut residents were under United States control during World War II;
 - (B) personal property taken or destroyed by United States forces during World War II;
 - (C) community property, including community church property, taken or destroyed by United States forces during World War II; and
 - (D) traditional village lands on Attu Island not rehabilitated after World War II for Aleut occupation or other productive use;
- (6) discourage the occurrence of similar injustices and violations of civil liberties in the future; and
- (7) make more credible and sincere any declaration of concern by the United States over violations of human rights committed by other nations.

SEC. 2. STATEMENT OF THE CONCERN.

(a) With regard to individuals of Japanese ancestry.—The Congress recognizes that, as described by the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians, a grave injustice was done to both citizens and permanent resident aliens of Japanese ancestry by the evacuation, relocation, and internment of civilians during World War II. As the Commission documents, these actions were carried out without adequate security reasons and without any acts of espionage or sabotage documented by the Commission, and were motivated largely by racial prejudice, wartime hysteria, and a

October 1990 Letter of Apology from President George H.W. Bush with a redress check



The White House
Washington

A monetary sum and words alone cannot restore lost years or erase painful memories; neither can they fully convey our Nation's resolve to rectify injustice and to uphold the rights of individuals. We can never fully right the wrongs of the past. But we can take a clear stand for justice and recognize that serious injustices were done to Japanese Americans during World War II.

apology

In enacting a law calling for restitution and offering a sincere apology, your fellow Americans have, in a very real sense, renewed their traditional commitment to the ideals of freedom, equality, and justice. You and your family have our best wishes for the future.

sincere

Sincerely,

GEORGE BUSH
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 1990



Have other leaders apologized?

- Earl Warren – “deeply regretted”
- Milton Eisenhower – “injustice”
- Sec Stimson, AG Biddle, Justice W. Douglas, Justice Tom Clark – all expressed regrets.

However:

- Bendetsen, McCloy and DeWitt – all had no regrets.
 - McCloy – “imprisonment was retribution for Pearl Harbor”
 - None of western governors apologized
-

Presidential apologies are not new

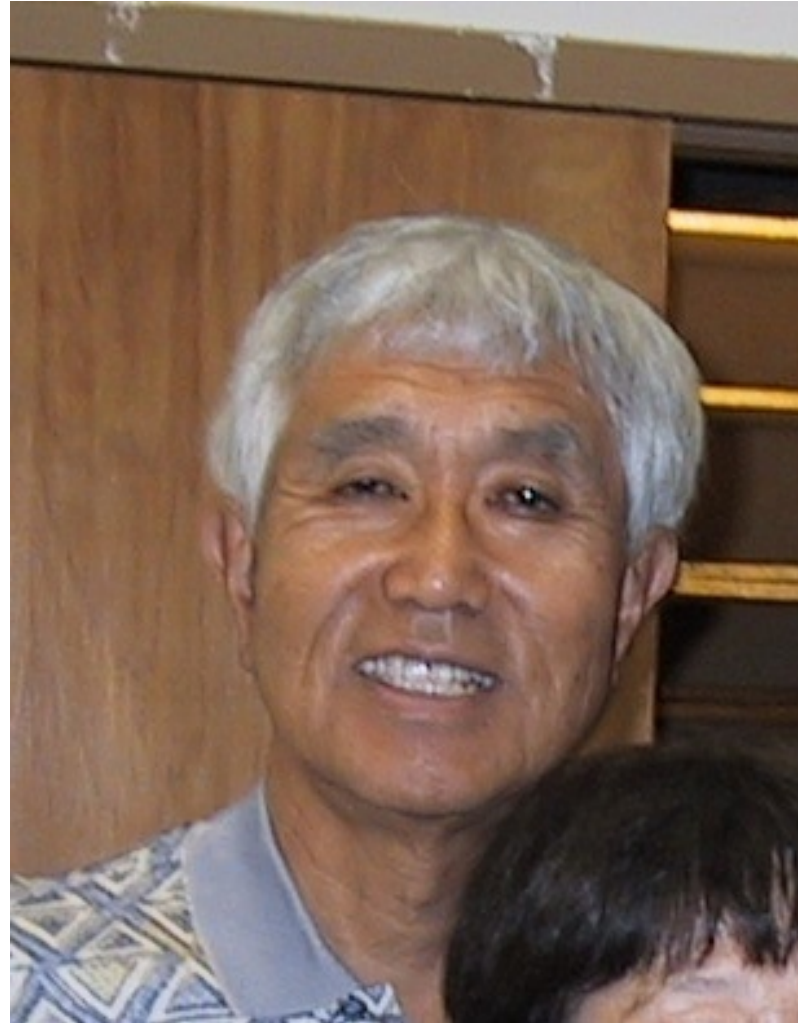
- Two conservative presidents signed the redress apology
- President Clinton apologized for inaction on Rwanda genocide
- Presidents George W. Bush and Obama apologized for disrespect of the Quran.





- So what happened to my buddies from camp?

Kobe became a pharmacist

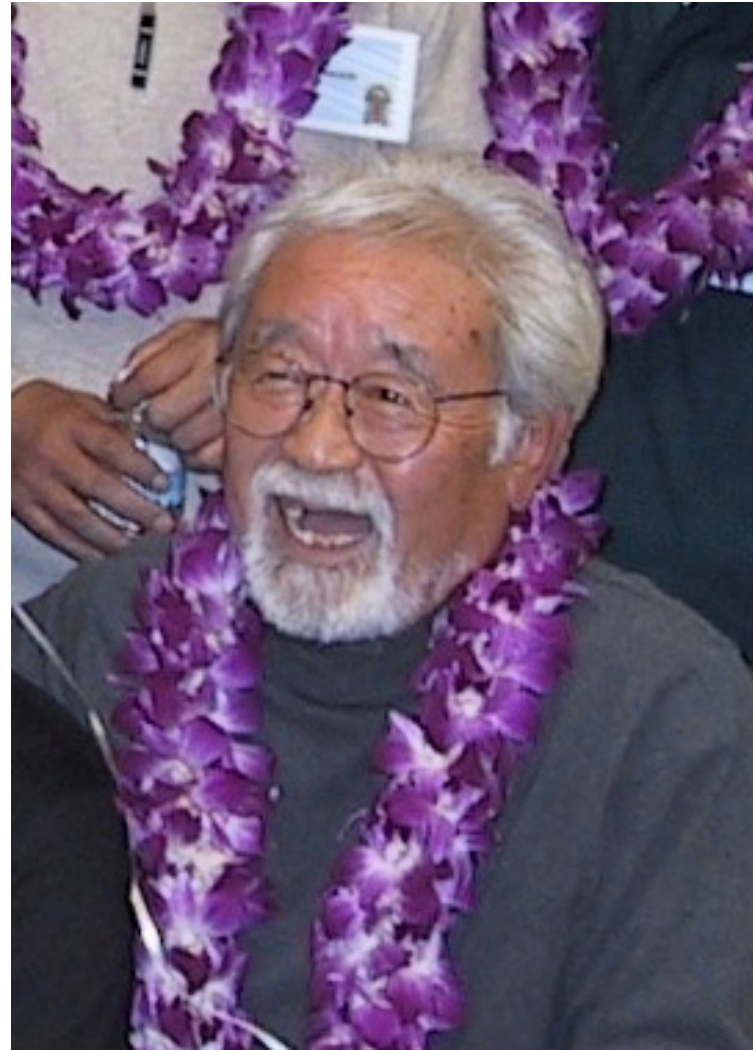


Sab became a physical therapist





Mickey became a graphic artist





Hal Keimi became teacher





Bill Shishima became teacher





Masako majored in math



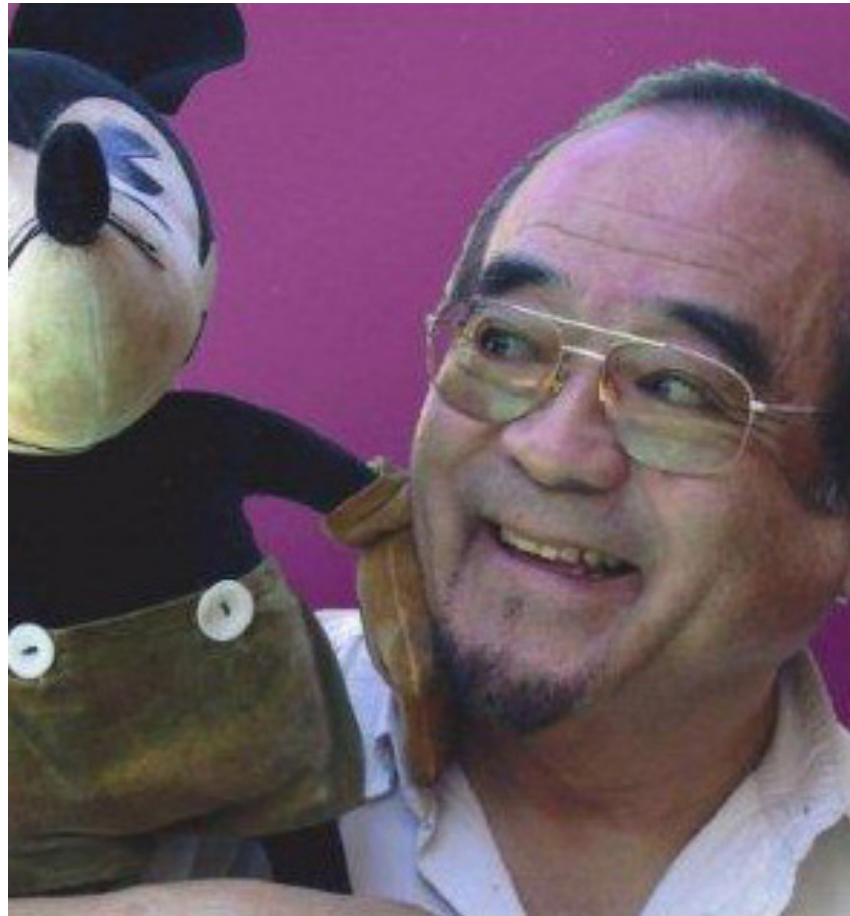


Shig is a Boys Club Executive and an author





Everyone should know Willie



Lady and the Tramp



Sam became an engineer



. . . And a rocket scientist



The Poster Girl grew up



And became Mrs. Mihara









LaDonna
Zall





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Japanese
Americans**

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Reasons why camps existed

- Prejudice
- Hysteria
- Failure of political leadership
- **Greed**
- **Believing imprisonment is the solution**



Can mass incarceration happen again?

- Cuban missile crises – 1962
- American hostages in Iran - 1979
- After 9/11 - 2001
- Shoe bomber – 2001
- Mexican Americans – 2003
- North Carolina minister - 2012



The final chapter is not yet written

Lessons learned include:

- Eliminate racial discrimination
- Prevent hysteria
- Select leaders who abide by the constitution
- Suppress greed
- Stop people from thinking imprisonment is the solution



Remember Heart Mountain



Never Again



