

My persona:

Japanese-American woman

Parents came from Japan in 1905

Born in America in 1906

Married; 3 children

Own a small general goods store in Los Angeles

Guiding question: Was FDR correct to inter people of Japanese ancestry in camps on the west coast for the duration of the war?

My response: no – we were loyal Americans, and this violated our civil rights.

(Associated Press by Trans-Pacific Telephone)

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 7.— President Roosevelt announced this morning that Japanese planes had attacked Manila and Pearl Harbor.

WAR!

OAHU BOMBED BY JAPANESE PLANES

SIX KNOWN DEAD, 21 INJURED, AT EMERGENCY HOSPITAL

Attack Made On Island's Defense Areas

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7.— (AP)—A White House announcement detailing the attack on the main islands of Hawaii today.

The Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, Oahu and all other main islands of the Hawaiian Islands.

They also attacked the main islands of Hawaii and Oahu, and destroyed the main islands of Hawaii.

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CIVILIANS ON BEACH AT PEARL HARBOR

The press has advised that all civilians are to be evacuated from the main islands of Hawaii and Oahu.

ANTI-AIRCRAFT TRAINING IN HAWAII

Anti-aircraft training is being conducted in Hawaii and Oahu.

Names of Dead and Injured

The names of the dead and injured are listed below.

Hundreds See City Bombed

Hundreds of people saw the city of Honolulu bombed by Japanese planes.

Schools Closed

All schools in Honolulu are closed today.

Editorial

The attack on Pearl Harbor is a tragedy of the first magnitude.

Oh my goodness! Japan bombed Hawaii! What craziness! Why would they do this? Now we will go to war against them — against the land of my ancestors. What a tragedy. I pray this will end peacefully. My son says he will join the American army, if they will have him. He is now the third generation living in America, and we have raised him to be a good and loyal American, as we are ourselves. I pray for my country, and I pray for the land of my Ancestors. May this not lead to further tragedy and death.

Executive Order 9066



President Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 on February 19, 1942 ordering all people of Japanese ancestry to be evacuated from the West Coast for the safety of the country. We are not the enemy! What will happen to us?

We saw this paper on the stand near our business. All is so uncertain.



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

**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.

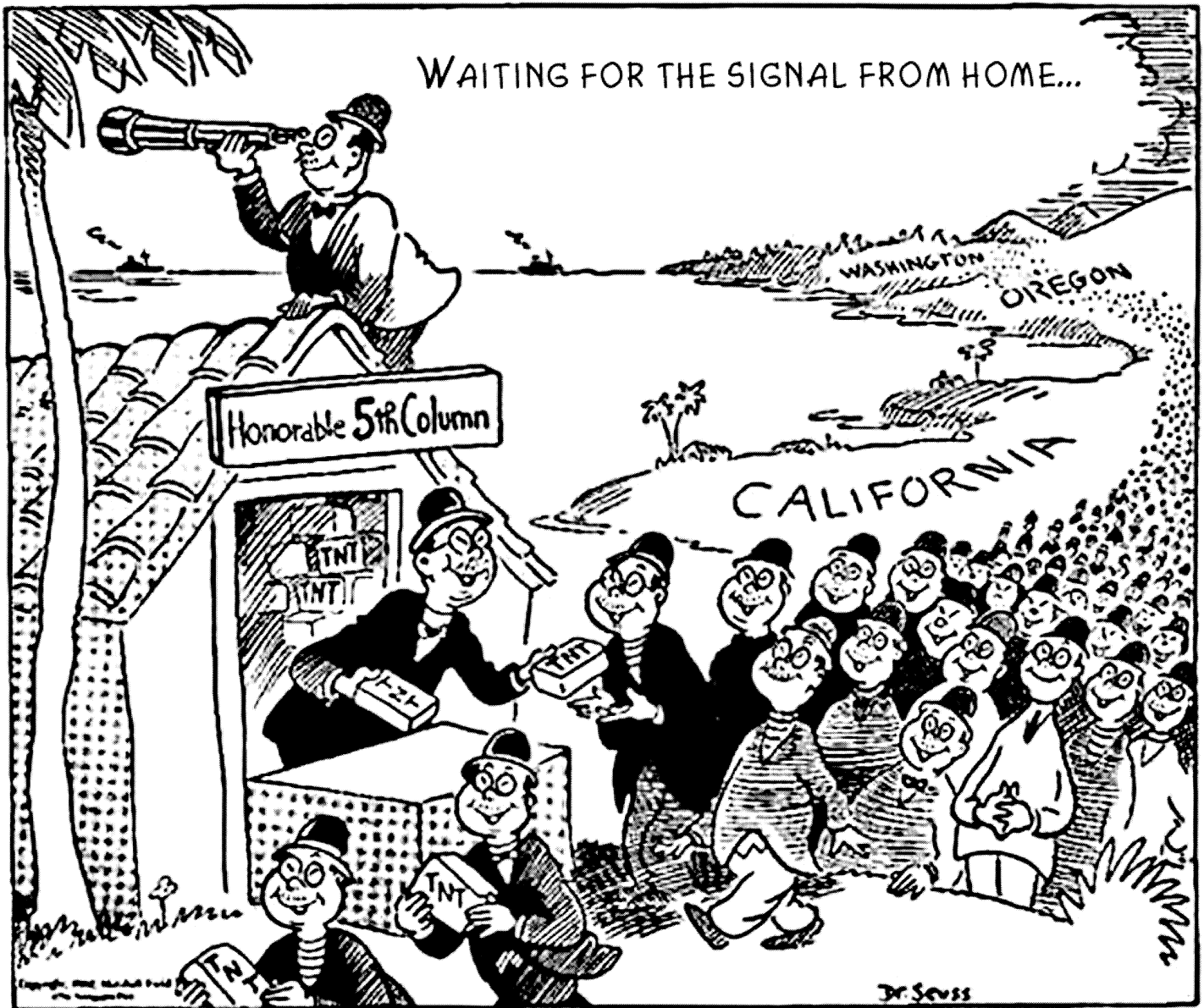
Go to the Civil Control Station between the hours of 8:00 A. M. and 5:00 P. M., Monday, May 4, 1942, or between the hours of 8:00 A. M. and 5:00 P. M., Tuesday, May 5, 1942, to receive further instructions.

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

An order was given today, May 3, 1942, that we must pack what we can into a few boxes and move into an Assembly Center. This week! We must leave almost everything, even our pets, behind. We are good Americans, so we will do it, but surely the government knows they can trust us. We had nothing to do with that awful day in Pearl Harbor. I fear that there is not even time to sell our house, or our business. Will our friends end up there, too?



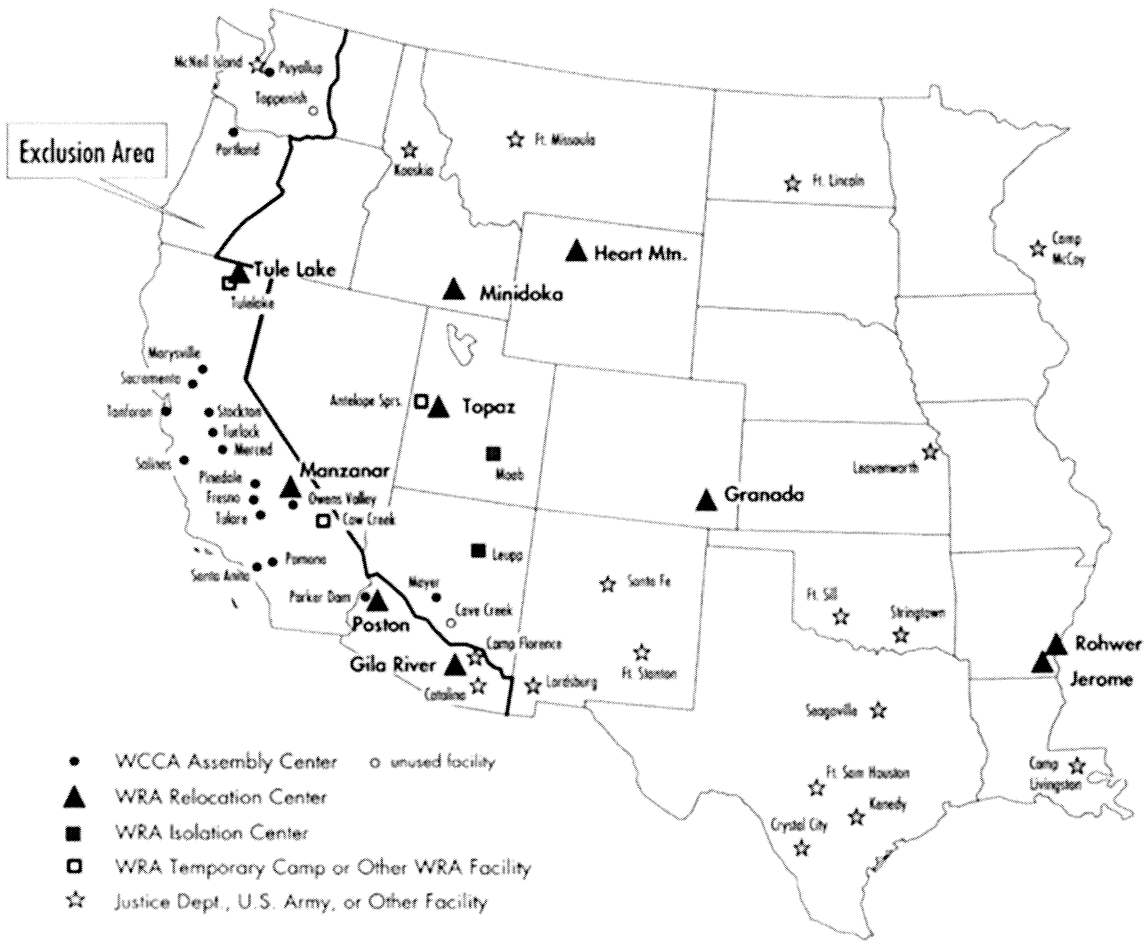
Our neighbors. So much hate. I know that many people never accepted us as Americans before, but at least we had our quiet little community, and we had our friends and family and businesses. Now, I fear for the safety of the children, and I fear that my husband may be arrest as a spy.



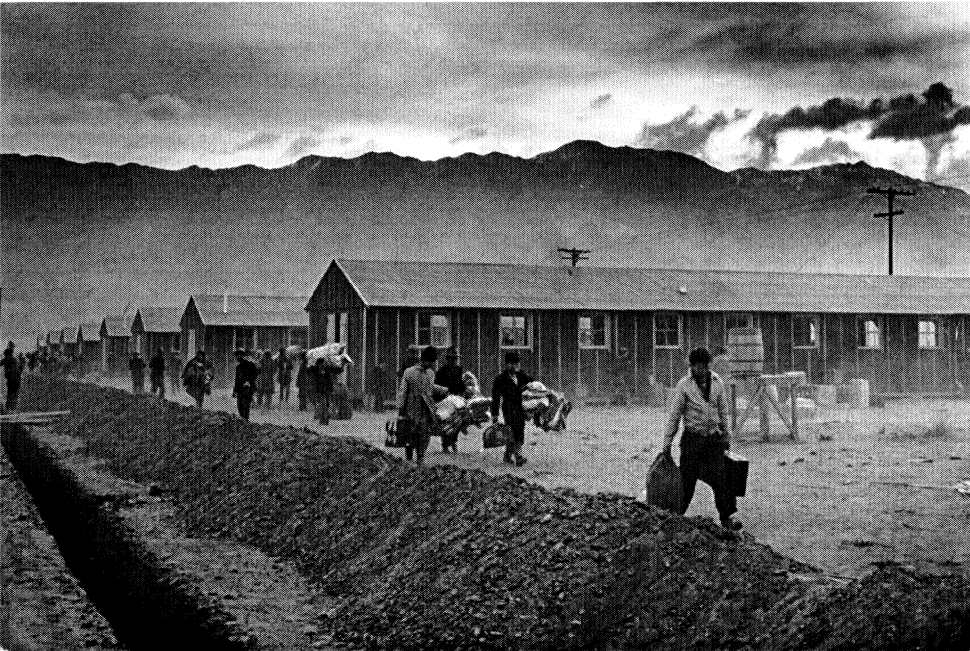
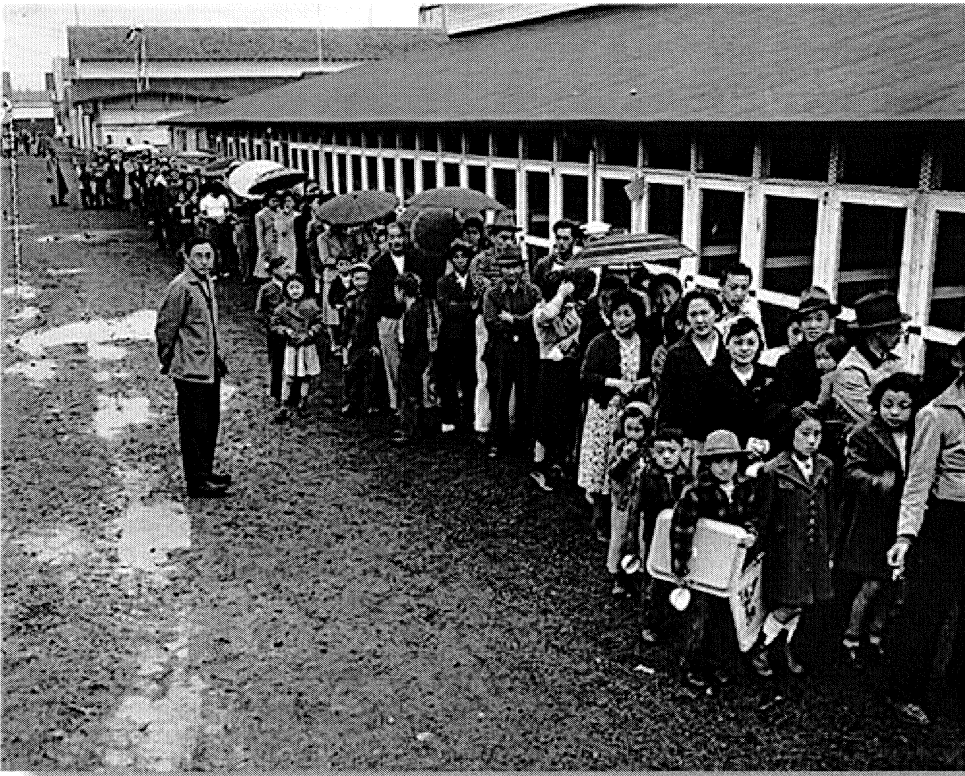
This cartoon ran in the paper today. Why do they spread such lies! We love our country – America! We would never do something to harm it. Why do they try to turn other Americans against us by suggesting that we are working for Japan to destroy America from within? If all Americans believe this, they will never let us out of these camps. I pray this war is over soon.



So much chaos and craziness at the Relocation Center! How will they ever sort us out? To see our lives reduced to a few bundles and boxes is heartbreaking. My husband and I worked so hard to build our business in San Francisco, and now we will probably never see any of it again. We don't even know where we are going! What if they send my daughter and grandkids somewhere else? What if they make us live separately?



We found this map of where we're to be evacuated to. The whole west coast is an "exclusion zone". No people of Japanese ancestry allowed there at all! None! All are being evacuated.



It was a very long wait to be sorted into our new homes. So many children. No one knows what will happen to us. So far we are safe and unharmed. They are feeding us enough, but not really the food we like to eat, and it feels so strange to eat what and when we are ordered to. We can take care of ourselves, if only they would let us.



We are very crowded here, and there is no privacy. There is a school for the children though, and we are well-fed and not harmed. It is so difficult to lose our freedom though! We have done nothing to deserve this!



SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT
WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
January 1 to June 30
1944
page 27

PERSONS OF JAPANESE ANCESTRY SEGREGATED AT TULE LAKE
BY AGE GROUPS, SEX AND NATIVITY
SEPTEMBER 1943 - MAY 1944

| SEX AND AGE | NUMBER | | | PERCENT | | |
|-------------|--------|---------------|--------------|---------|---------------|--------------|
| | TOTAL | American Born | Foreign Born | TOTAL | American Born | Foreign Born |
| TOTAL 1 | 18,355 | 12,489 | 5,866 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Under 17 | 5,212 | 5,181 | 31 | 28.4 | 41.6 | .5 |
| 17 - 19 | 1,478 | 1,468 | 10 | 8.1 | 11.8 | .2 |
| 20 - 24 | 2,845 | 2,811 | 34 | 15.5 | 22.5 | .6 |
| 25 - 29 | 1,849 | 1,819 | 30 | 10.1 | 14.6 | .5 |
| 30 - 34 | 820 | 720 | 100 | 4.5 | 5.8 | 1.7 |
| 35 - 39 | 824 | 511 | 513 | 4.5 | 2.6 | 8.7 |
| 40 - 44 | 1,152 | 121 | 1,031 | 6.2 | .9 | 17.6 |
| 45 - 49 | 994 | 25 | 969 | 5.4 | .2 | 16.5 |
| 50 - 54 | 810 | 19 | 791 | 4.4 | .1 | 13.5 |
| 55 - 59 | 937 | 8 | 929 | 5.1 | .1 | 15.8 |
| 60 - 64 | 758 | 3 | 755 | 4.1 | 2 | 12.9 |
| 65 - 69 | 478 | 2 | 476 | 2.6 | 2 | 8.1 |
| 70 - 74 | 141 | 0 | 141 | .8 | 0.0 | 2.4 |
| 75 and Over | 57 | 1 | 56 | .3 | 2 | 1.0 |
| MALE | 10,698 | 6,940 | 3,758 | 58.3 | 55.6 | 64.1 |
| Under 17 | 2,616 | 2,598 | 18 | 14.3 | 20.8 | .3 |
| 17 - 19 | 804 | 799 | 5 | 4.4 | 6.4 | .1 |
| 20 - 24 | 1,723 | 1,707 | 16 | 9.4 | 13.7 | .3 |
| 25 - 29 | 1,055 | 1,041 | 14 | 5.7 | 8.4 | .2 |
| 30 - 34 | 514 | 460 | 54 | 2.8 | 3.7 | .9 |
| 35 - 39 | 464 | 202 | 262 | 2.5 | 1.6 | 4.5 |
| 40 - 44 | 613 | 92 | 521 | 3.3 | .7 | 8.9 |
| 45 - 49 | 452 | 18 | 434 | 2.5 | .1 | 7.4 |
| 50 - 54 | 457 | 15 | 442 | 2.5 | .1 | 7.5 |
| 55 - 59 | 740 | 7 | 733 | 4.0 | .1 | 12.5 |
| 60 - 64 | 669 | 0 | 669 | 3.6 | 0.0 | 11.4 |
| 65 - 69 | 418 | 0 | 418 | 2.3 | 0.0 | 7.1 |
| 70 - 74 | 122 | 0 | 122 | .7 | 0.0 | 2.1 |
| 75 and Over | 51 | 1 | 50 | .3 | 2 | .9 |

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
Statistics Section
Washington, D. C.

OldMagazineArticles.com

So many children here at our camp. Over 7000, and almost all of them born in America! Only the old people are from Japan, and they left it long ago because they love America. Will these children ever know freedom? Will they ever have the chance to explore a neighborhood, and run in parks, and sneak to the store for candy? Visit their friends and be invited over for a special dinner. I suppose that now they actually see their friends more than usual since they are living in the next stall over.

Mr. Kinji Imada
10-9-C Rivers, Arizona

Dear Mr. Imada:

This will inform you that your application for admission to the Freshman class in November and the official credentials submitted in support of it have been carefully considered.

At the time you made your original request for an application for admission to the Freshman class, it was our understanding that the University would be permitted to accept American students of Japanese parentage. We find now that because of the large unit of Navy and Marine Corps students in the University, we are at this time not permitted to accept students of Japanese parentage. We trust that you will be able to continue your education elsewhere.

Very truly yours,

My son applied to Yale – he's such a fine student. Unfortunately, he is being denied entry due to being Japanese American.

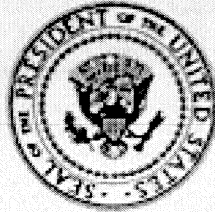
Not because of his scores or grades, but due to his parentage! This is so unjust! He works so hard!



Finally, the war is over and we can go home. When my daughter arrived at her house, this is what she found. We have lost everything. Our businesses and homes are gone forever. The government doesn't plan to help us further. We must start over.



President Regan signed the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 into law today. It says that America was wrong to inter us, and that we should each be compensated between 20 and 40 thousand dollars. Some people voted against this and will try to stop it in court, but I believe we will prevail.



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.

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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "G. W. Bush".

GEORGE BUSH
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

It took nearly 50 years, but President George Bush as issued a formal apology and says that all survivors and their descendants will receive compensation from the government for what was unjustly taken from us. I'm 95, and I can finally breathe my last. Justice has been received.



Note from Granddaughter:

The musical artists Fort Minor have written and performed a song about my Grandfather Kenji!

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pugs2\]v4\]vk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pugs2]v4]vk)

"My father, came from Japan, in 1905
He was fifteen when he, immigrated from Japan
He, he, he worked until he was able to buy
To actually build a store"

Let me tell you a story in the form of a dream
I don't know why I have to tell it, but I know what it means
Close your eyes, just picture the scene
As I paint it for you

It was World War II
When this man named Kenji woke up
Ken was not a soldier, he was just a man
With a family who owned a store in L.A

That day, he crawled out of bed like he always did
Bacon and eggs with wife and kids
He lived on the second floor of a little store he ran
He moved to L.A. from Japan

They called him immigrant, in Japanese
He'd say he was called "issei"
That meant first generation
In the United States when

Everybody was afraid of the Germans, afraid of the Japs
But most of all, afraid of a homeland attack
And that morning, when Ken went out on the doormat
His world went black, 'cause

Right there, front page news
Three weeks before 1942
Pearl Harbor's been bombed and "The Japs are Coming"
Pictures of soldiers dying and running

Ken knew what it would lead to
And just like he guessed, the president said
"The evil Japanese in our home country
Would be locked away"

They gave Ken a couple of days
To get his whole life packed in two bags
Just two bags, he couldn't even pack his clothes
And some folks didn't even have a suitcase