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# Apology, reparations are based on lies

## POINT OF VIEW

The Herald Examiner encourages prominent newsmakers to submit their replies to the newspaper's editorials, Op-Ed articles, columnists and news reports.

By Dr. Howard Garber

**T**he Herald Examiner and the media in general have failed to report the facts regarding our treatment of Japanese-Americans following the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

Large-scale, well-organized Japanese fifth column activity on the West Coast, and a real danger of invasion, necessitated the creation of four coast security zones and evacuation from these strategic areas of all enemy aliens and other possible subversives. This wartime action to ensure public safety and national security was upheld 6 to 3 by the U.S. Supreme Court in a ruling that has never been reversed.

With the broadened Freedom of Information Act of 1977 and 1980, declassified intelligence information showing widespread espionage by first- and second-generation Japanese-Americans and their alien parents, became available for the first time.

Japan, unlike Germany and Italy, regarded all with "Japanese blood" as Japanese citizens wherever they lived, and demanded their loyalty to the emperor. Thousands of these Japanese-Americans, virtually all with "dual citizenship," refused to take loyalty oaths to the U.S. and requested expatriation to Japan. So too did thousands of resident Japanese aliens who by international law became enemy aliens when war was declared.

The powerful and deceitful Japanese-American lobby, denying these and other facts, has engaged in a national campaign of vilification and lies. Its members have used the passage of 45 years to great advantage. In fact, during World War II the Japanese-American Citizens League praised the Wartime Relocation Authority for the protective relocation centers, which also aided our national security.

This very same JACL, today controlled

by young radicals who were not even born at the time, now dramatizes its false claims for billions of dollars in punitive damages and an apology by this nation. And last month, apologists in Congress perpetuating our nation's neurotic "guilt trip," chose the very day of our Constitutional Bicentennial to ignore and circumvent the Supreme Court.

The JACL/ACLU coalition is to get through Congress what it could not achieve through our courts, and it is succeeding.

It is incredible that today the U.S. Senate is evidently about to follow the apologist/appeasement lead of the House, which overwhelmingly approved HR442 calling for \$1.2 billion plus in reparations and a national apology to those who were placed in relocation camps. As a veteran and a member of the Jewish community, I condemn the lies and half-truths that have been used in the outrageous but effective propaganda campaign that media have also waged.

Our Supreme Court rejected JACL's use of the term "concentration camp," which connotes "death camp," but the group's members persist in that usage.

Never mind that the voluntary relocation centers had the highest birth rate and lowest death rate in the nation. They persist also in using the term "survivors," which we properly use in connection with Nazi and Japanese death camps. And they have succeeded in having virtually all in the media misuse the term "internment camps."

Never mind that internment was only for enemy aliens to be deported. Even Gov. George Deukmejian has unwittingly assisted our detractors by signing into law AB1375, authored by Assembly Speaker Willie Brown's disciple and apologist Mike Roos. This law provides for educational programs that will distort history by teaching our children "internment" lies and relating this episode to the Armenian genocide by the Turks.

Will they teach about the documented and widespread fifth column activity and inform future generations that Japanese-Americans comprised the lowest percentage of inductees of any ethnic or racial group in the U.S.? Will they teach that 6,000 Japanese-Americans were born in the relocation centers and that thousands of Japanese-Americans

renounced their U.S. citizenship?

We have indeed been on a "guilt trip" as to the demands of the JACL and various other special-interest groups, and the media and many in Congress have been helping. Even the Smithsonian Institution is assisting. Its curator, who has long allied himself with the JACL, plans to exhibit JACL "internment photos" from "American concentration camps."

Too many refer to "this shameful episode in American history" instead of placing the blame and shame where it really belongs, on our former enemy, Japan, and the thousands of Japanese-Americans and aliens who remained loyal to the emperor. (How can the JACL, a non-profit, tax-exempt organization, spend millions on such political propaganda while veterans and other citizen organizations must remain "non-political"?)

If the JACL charges of racism are true as alleged, why were the 25,000 Japanese-Americans of the other 44 states not affected? In fact, is not Japan — which does not provide for citizenship or property ownership by anyone not of Japanese blood — a better example of a racist nation? Have Japanese-Americans with dual citizenship ever tried to influence Japan to end its racist policies? Or, has the JACL pressed Japan for a belated apology for World War II and its documented atrocities of that period?

As for loss claims, alien ownership of U.S. property was not legal until 1952. Properties were leased not lost, and funds were frozen, not confiscated, and personal property was stored at U.S. expense. Most other nations confiscate enemy properties.

Even so, from 1948 through 1956, 126,000 claims were paid in the millions. Furthermore, those who chose relocation centers over settlement in the other 44 states were free to leave those centers for colleges and war plants, and they left at the rate of 1,000 a week.

Americans too young to remember "that day of infamy" must hear the truth regarding our war for survival. If apologies and reparations are due, they are due our World War II servicemen, who were forced to leave their loved ones, sacrifice their jobs, their businesses, and many, their lives. Let's stop the guilt trip, and let's stop this shameful sellout and falsification of U.S. history. ■



# Our World

## 1943 • 1944

GREETINGS TO THE STUDENTS OF THE MANZANAR HIGH SCHOOL

### Manzanar High

#### MANZANAR, CA

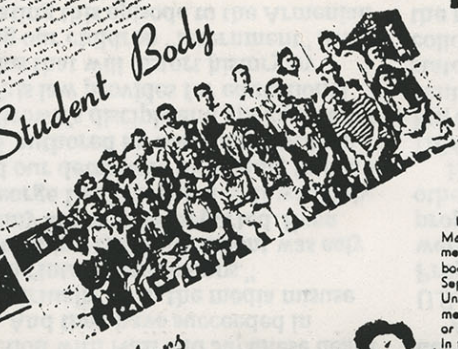
\* Friends

\* Friends

“CONCENTRATION CAMP” ?  
OR RELOCATION CENTER ?



Student Body



Administrators



contents

- THE CLASSES
- ACTIVITIES
- CLUBS
- BOYS' SPORTS
- GIRLS' SPORTS
- COMMUNITY LIFE



second

...the first semester few activities outside of the Senior Class Christmas Dance were scheduled. With the advent of spring and warmer weather more of an extra-curricular program was carried on. Second semester found the A Capella Choir organized and preparing for public performances.

Unique in that its students came from over 200 schools Manzanar High School at one time reached a peak enrollment of 1,000 pupils. For the first time the entire student body and faculty gathered together when school opened in September, 1942 with an assembly at the outdoor theatre. Under the guidance of Leon High, our first principal, classes met in the barracks of block seven. With no chairs, books, or customary classroom equipment, the students carried on. In the first student body election, Senior Tommy Aiseta was unanimously chosen to lead as student body prexy.

During the first semester few activities outside of the Senior Class Christmas Dance were scheduled. With the advent of spring and warmer weather more of an extra-curricular program was carried on. Second semester found the A Capella Choir organized and preparing for public performances.

"The Balled for Americans" was the theme of the school concert put on in the latter part of June by the choir. On June 19, the "B's" gave the "A's" a fine time at the Senior Prom. Then—graduation and summer vacation!!!

In September Mr. Rollin C. Fox succeeded Mr. High as our principal and George Nishimura took over the job of student body president. At the same time the junior high elected Mamoru Ogi as their prexy.

With the formation of the Boys' and Girls' League in the late part of October, the girls of Manzanar Senior High scheduled their first dance, the successful Spinsters' Skip for the first month in the new year. Manzanar schools observed American Education Week with "Better World Understanding" as their theme. Supervised by Mr. Louis Frizzell, the Christmas Concert and the senior play "Growing Pains" were well attended and enjoyed by many.

At this time the long-awaited auditorium was begun. In a colorful ceremony on February 19, important documents were sealed in a cornerstone. "F.D.R." Nishimura was elected for a second term and Mary Horami took over the job of the junior high school student body prexy.

Although saddened by the departure of the Tule Lake segregees in February the students embarked upon a spring schedule of activities as the days grew warmer and longer.

Towards the end of the semester, the auditorium was finished and officially opened. One of the first programs to be held there was another Frizzell extravaganza, this time an operette.

In years to come many an alumnae of Manzanar high school will be able to look back with fond memories at the days spent in Block 7 . . . those outdoor pep rallies, the after school dance practices, the bull sessions following seventh period. How many will think longingly of the dances held at Mess Hall two, the little theater in 7-15, and those last minute rushes peculiar to the journalism dept.? The first snow storm, the many dusty days, and the early signs of spring will all be a precious part of the memories of the graduating classes of Manzanar High School.



'44 officers



first semester



office workers



senior calendar

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parent-teacher association

Recorded: U.S. Senate Judiciary Hearing, June 17, 1987 - S1009

Source: Henry Uemeto, graduate of Manzanar High  
Item: Excerpts and photos from 75 page Yearbook, "Our World 1943-1944 Manzanar High"  
"...my years at Manzanar beginning at age 15 through age 18...were some of the happiest years of my life." (1987 quote of Mr. Uemeto, who with family relocated at MANZANAR RELOCATION CENTER, Manzanar, California.)