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Japanese Exclusion Memorial VBlake Island Bainbridge Island, Washington

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TimeLine

Pearl Harbor



On December 7, 1941 the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

Japanese Left Bainbridge Island



On March 30, 1942 the Japanese American Bainbridge Islanders left to unknown lands with only the things they could cary.

1941 1942

Nº 19/16

Executive Order 9066



On February 19, 1942 President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066.

Some Leave For Minidoka



In February, 1943, most of the Japanese American Bainbridge Islanders leave Manzanar for Minidoka.



Returning Home



In April, 1945, the first Japanese from Bainbridge Island returned. Most came home to a warm welcome unlike just across the water, in Seattle.

Introduction

Living in World War Two wasn't easy for anyone, but immigrants from enemy countries had it the worst.

In the United States of America, they were fighting for the Allied forces against Japan and all the Japanese immigrants had it tough. The Americans forced completely loyal men, women, and children into places they called "Relocation Camps" that were basically prisons. Let's start with...

R. Reagan signs Apology



In 1988 President Ronald Reagan Signs Apology to the Japanese Americans giving them each \$20,000.

Japanese exclusion memorial Opens



In 2011 the Japanese Exclusion Memorial on Bainbridge Island was opened.



1988



The Japanese grew amazing strawberries, and on Bainbridge Latino's helped them.

Before The War

In the 1880's many Japanese immigrated to America, and many settled on Bainbridge Island. Many of them worked at the Blakely Harbor Mill which was built in 1864 and was later the largest in the world. The Mill burned down three times and it was closed down in 1924. After this, the Japanese started farming and opening stores.

In many places, the Japanese Americans were hated and their children had to go to different schools than the white, but here on Bainbridge Island, many people were close friends with them.

The Japanese did so well with their jobs that the American government stopped the Japanese from coming to the United States, but this only lasted during one presidency before it stopped.

The Japanese American Bainbridge Islanders grew amazing strawberries on their farms and other tasty foods. While their strawberries were fantastic they didn't last long on the shelf and had to be eaten quickly. Life was peaceful on Bainbridge Island. But it didn't last long, by the 1930s war was brewing in Europe.

Pearl Harbor

On December 7, 1941, the Japanese bombed Pearl harbor. During the Pearl Harbor attack, the Japanese damaged about 20 ships, more than 300 airplanes and killed 2400 Americans, and injured another 1000, but they didn't do enough to stop the Americans.

The Americans didn't want to join World War II, a world war that started when Germany invaded Poland in 1939. The war wasn't just over that, and many horrible things happened to the Jewish that the Germans had put in Concentration Camps.



The Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, much of the American fleet was sunk.



You may be wondering why the Japanese even attacked the Americans, they had fought together in World War One, what had changed? The reason was in the 1930s, during the Great Depression, the Japanese didn't have the imports they needed, so they decided to take over China. The Americans had been allied with the Chines for years, the Americans didn't want to take place in another war so they watched from the sidelines.

This made the Americans hate the Japanese and they stopped them from getting things crucial to the Japanese military hoping this would stop them from invading, but they doubled down to French Indochina then they allied with Germany and Italy in World War II.



Many brave sailors lost their lives on that dreadful day.

The Japanese'
plan was to wipe out
the American fleet so
it couldn't launch an
attack on them, but
they went for the wrong
stuff. They missed the
oil tanks, ammunition,
aircraft
repair yards.

The attack
caused Americans more
of a reason to hate the
Japanese Americans. By
midnight on December 7,
the FBI had arrested
many German and Italian
aliens, but they arrested
far more Japanese aliens.





The USS Arizona sunk in the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

The next day, on December 8, 1941, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt declared war on Japan. Over the next months hate and anger rose in the US, many Japanese Americans lost jobs and friends from this.

Leaving

On February 19, 1942, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed executive order 9066 ordering that all the people of Japanese ancestry, aliens, and nonalien were to be put in relocation camps.

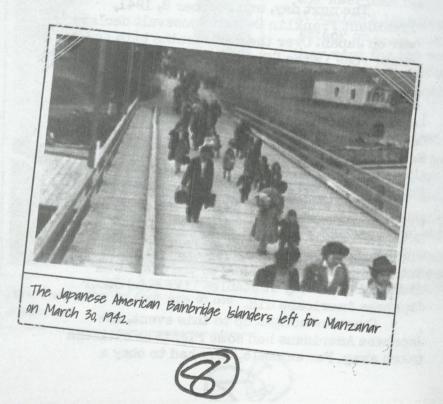
There were disadvantages and advantages to leaving first as the Japanese American Bainbridge Islanders did. They didn't know where they were going or what it would be like. But they got to go straight to the camps and didn't have to stay at stables like some other Japanese Americans did.

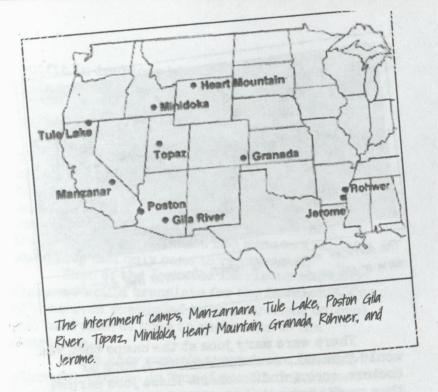
Over the months up to this event, the Japanese Americans had some rights as citizens taken away. For example, they had to obey a curfew and be at home from 8:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m., not only did the Japanese Americans not have so many rights they were hated by the public. On Bainbridge, they didn't face these problems as much but they still had to follow the rules.

When they left they were given only a few days to prepare, then they were to assemble at the Eagledale Ferry Dock. Many of the parents told their children that they were going on a vacation and the guards at the dock made it even

more exciting for them.

Many of the Japanese Americans sold their land to friends for very small amounts of money with the agreement that they would give it back for the same amount of money. Not all Japanese Americans were this lucky. Even just across the water in Seattle, they weren't wanted. Many made these deals, only to find out when they returned the people they'd sold their land to, had sold the land before they returned.





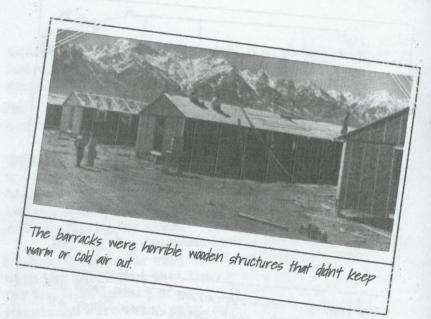
Relocation Camps

Though these camps were really called relocation camps many people called them concentration camps, Internment camps, or prison camps. In the camps, there were barracks that the Japanese Americans would stay in.

They would sleep in the barracks but there were other buildings that they would eat in and others still that they would go to the bathroom in.

When the Japanese Americans moved to the camps the Barracks were dusty and had no furniture except for four old army cots. Families passed around brooms to sweep the dust and over the first days, many of the evacuees built shelves, tables, and other things to make their barracks more comfortable. The barracks were built with a thin layer of wood on top of a frame with no insulation, even in the places where the camps got extremely cold.





There were many jobs at the camps that you would find all around the country, such as doctors, cooks, and teachers. These jobs earned them profit but not much, doctors were being paid about 50 times less than the white doctors that lived on the West Coast.

As for the children, they would go to school during the day, the school wasn't as good as the schools outside the camps, but they did their best to make life as easy as possible, especially for the kids. After school and work, there would be games, people would form sports leagues, they played basketball, baseball, and many other sports, the kids would play kitchen like any would but if they were younger, they would line up to get food, not cook it.

After a while, the people in the camps took a survey to see if they were loyal, for some of the questions they mention going to war, people who answered no to these questions were called No-no's, some of them were even sent to prison.

The Japanese American men were sent to war, the all-Nisei (American born with immigrant Parents) 442nd was the most decorated



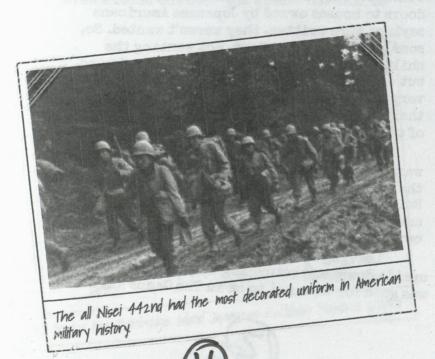
outfit in American history. In October 1944 the 442nd saved a Texas unit trapped by the Germans, and 800 Nisei men were killed or wounded to save 211 Texan men.

After this, the 442nd returned to Italy where they had done most of their fighting, and beat the Axis in less than one hour, while the three Allied divisions had been trying for six months. In Germany, the 442nd took over a concentration camp, and the residents had thought that the Japanese had come to kill them when they had only come to rescue them.

Some of the Japanese Americans who knew Japanese would translate for the Americans. One of them even pretended to be a Japanese colonel and told some of them to surrender to the

Americans.

While they weren't away at war, the only place for them to go "home" was the Internment Camps no matter how many awards they won they were still treated as enemies.





The camps were surrounded by barbed wire, and if you went near them you were shot, or even killed

It seems unfair that the Nisei fought for freedom for others but they and their families had to give up all their rights and be forced to live in camps.

Returning Home
In mid-1944, most young
loyal adults had left the
camps to work elsewhere, but
the children and elders still
lived. In December 1944, the
Japanese were allowed to
return home.

The Japanese American
Bainbridge Islanders were
not the first to return home.
They heard about how Japanese
Americans from

Seattle just across the water were being welcomed, they weren't wanted. Painted on the doors to houses owned by Japanese Americans sayings were written, they weren't wanted. So, some of the men went first, not wanting the children to have to experience being rejected, but when they got there they were surprised and very pleased that they were wanted back home, their white neighbors even asked where the rest of the family was.

They may have been lucky, but returning wasn't perfect, some of the houses were damaged, though a small number compared to other places. Bainbridge Islanders honored their agreements and return the properties to their rightful owners.

Leaving their homes turned their lives upside down, and returning wasn't a picnic. It was good for them not to be in The Camps anymore,



but their lives had been ruined, all of them had to sell most of their belongings, most of them for much less than they had bought it.

1988

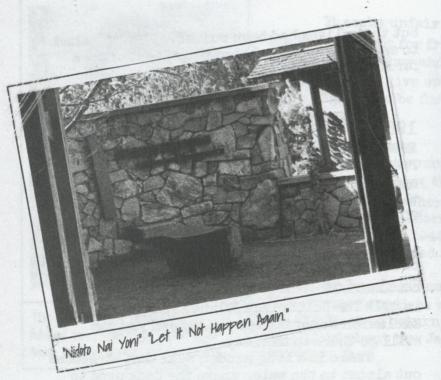
1988 was a good year for the Japanese Americans, President Ranald Reagan gave an official apology and all the living Japanese Americans that had been interned during World War II 20,000 dollars.

Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial Opens

In 2011 The Bainbridge Island Japanese Exclusion Memorial was opened and you can still go there to this day.

There is a long wooden wall that stretches out almost to the water where the dock used to be, now there is just a bit of dock that doesn't even extend out over the water. The wall is





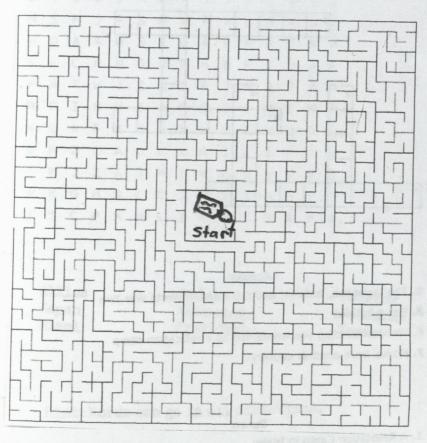
covered in carvings, one even has barbed water over it to represent the camps. These carvings also have one to two quotes on them, one is about how one kid's coach let all the Japanese Americans on the team play the entire game, even though they lost 15-2.

This memorial is an important place on the Island so all can learn the history and as the Japanese would say "Nidoto Nai Yoni" Let It Not Happen Again".



Puzzles

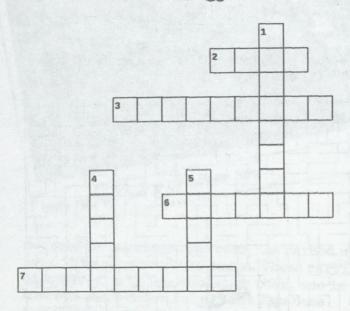
Help get Bobby Tanka out of the camp and back to Bainbridge Island.





Puzzles

Crossword



Across

- 2. The Japanese, Italians, and Germans in World War Two
- 3. Being left out
- 6. Wooden building you would find at a relocation camp
- 7. Moved from another country.

Down

- 1. A Relocation Camp in Idaho
- 4. American born with immigrant Parents
- 5. Enemy country in World War Two



Word Search

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Allies Japan Nisei Axis Manzanar President

Barrack Minidoka Topaz

Hint: Words can go in all directions.



