

Manzanar Schools by Henry Nakano

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Manzanar Schools

When we came to Manzanar from all over California we were wondering if we would continue to have schools here. Our parents were wondering what would happen to us if we did not go to school. They probably thought that we would forget what we have learned.

When Dr. Carter was elected Superintendent of the Schools of Manzanar she assured us there would be schools the following Fall. She started a Summer school for those who wanted to complete the course of the semester before. Then school started, October 5, 1942.

The first schools were held at block 7. There wasn't any chairs to sit on and we had to sit on the floor and read & write. There wasn't enough text books for the class so we had to share our books with our neighbor. When we went to study hall it was a riot. There was chairs here and there and lots of times we had to sit on the tables. After about a few months of sitting on the floor the school promised us chairs and enough text books for the whole class. They did not come for a long time and after waiting a long period they finally came. There was a incident in camp, which made it impossible for us to go to school for about a month.

Then the real Manzanar school started on January 18th. When we came back to school they had every room insulated, had chairs for everybody and enough text books to issue out so that we could take books home and study. The study halls were organized so that we could use it as a study period.

The 1st Manzanar schools bring back memory of aching backs and muscles. Now Manzanar High School is well organized and is a place where we can get a education. So let us cooperate and make this school a good one.