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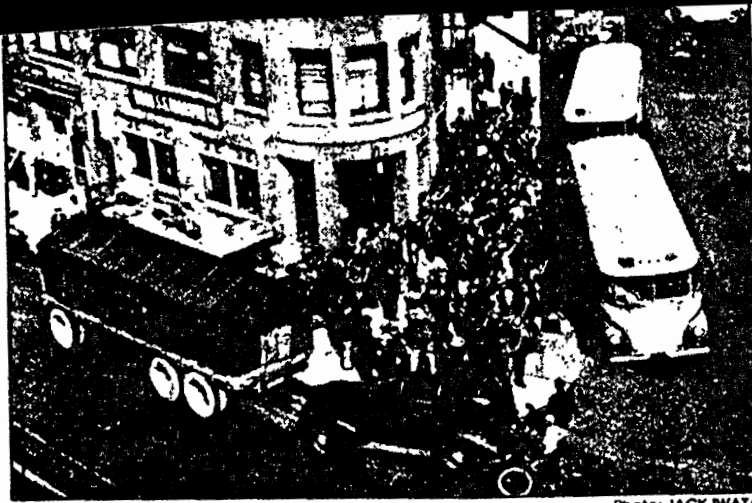


Photo: JACK IWATA

**ASSEMBLY POINT**—A rare 1942 photo shows two busses loaded with evacuees at East First Street and Central Avenue in Los Angeles, ready to leave for an assembly center. The tarp-covered truck (at left) was to convey the personal belongings stashed along the sidewalk for government storage. The building, originally the Nishi Hongwanji, is headquarters for the Japanese American National Museum, which will unveil a new exhibition, "America's Concentration Camps: Remembering the Japanese American Experience," on Nov. 11.

# Exhibit on Evacuation, camp days to open Nov. 11 in Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES— A new exhibit, "America's Concentration Camps: Remembering the Japanese American Experience," will be premiered by the Japanese American National Museum on Friday, Nov. 11, that will feature:

- An original barrack from the Heart Mountain, Wyo., camp.
- A layout of camp sites where former internees will place model barracks symbolizing their wartime communities.
- Artifacts and stories that show their determination to make camp life as normal as possible despite the abnormal and adverse

conditions.

- Never-before-seen home movies inside the camps.
- Facts and figures about the enormity and reality of incarceration.
- Recently discovered photographs taken by internees and others of the "Evacuation" and camp experience.
- And opportunities for former internees, teachers and other eyewitnesses to this history of WWII to add their stories at each camp cluster at the museum.

Museum curator Karen L. See EXHIBIT/page 14

## EXHIBIT

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Ishizuka explained the exhibit is designed to "increase awareness of the WWII experience and engage evacuees and others to collectively reach a greater understanding of this extraordinary chapter of American history."

Providing his expertise in building this exhibit is Ralph Appelbaum, who helped to create the recently-opened U.S. Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C.

Ishizuka added that the exhibit will not encompass every aspect of Evacuation or the camp experience, "since no single show could possibly cover all this material." It is intended to highlight a chapter of American history "while simultaneously gathering more information for future exhibits on different aspects of this history."

"There are still many things which we don't know or fully understand," she added, such as "the psychological effect of being wrongly incarcerated and the long-term impact on America as a democratic nation."

Scheduled for a year showing, the JANM exhibit has added to the cluster of 10 WRA camps, the Immigration and Naturalization Service enemy alien internment camp at Crystal City, Texas, where nearly 2,000 Japanese from Peru were held hostage.

Videos comprised of prewar Issei home movies, newsreel footage of the 100/442nd Nisei GIs and 1982 redress hearings conducted by the Commission on



Photo: JACK IWATA

**ASSEMBLY CENTER**—Forced from their homes, this family awaits further directions as they arrive at Manzanar. The scene is reflective of the next major JANM exhibit opening Nov. 11 in Little Tokyo on the Japanese American camp experience. The museum is planning to unveil a section of an authentic camp barrack from Heart Mountain, Wyoming, in an adjacent parking lot.

Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians (CWRIC) will also be on tape. It was the CWRIC that concluded the incarceration of Japanese Americans during WWII was not a military necessity, but was the result of racism and opportunism. The commission recommended that survivors of those forced into the camps be provided monetary redress of \$20,000 and an apology. The recommendation was signed into law, the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, by President Reagan.

The museum discovered that one of the apartment units of the Heart Mountain barrack, coming from the Rod Morrison property near Powell, Wyo., has the num-

bers "22799" inscribed and believes this to be the WRA family number for the Tokisabu T. and Hifuko W. Mukai family and their children Jenkuro, Kei and Tomu who were in Los Angeles and initially detained at Pomona Assembly Center.

In undertaking a nation-wide search for this family, inquiry with a Heart Mountain camp directory and former internees have been fruitless. If whereabouts of the Mukai family is known, the museum hopes to find out who else lived in this portion of the barracks, according to Chris Komai, JANM public relations coordinator, (213) 625-0414. All leads will be appreciated.