

Henry Kawata
Core 7-8
Dec. 30, 1942

World War No. 2

Pearl Harbor was attacked on Sunday, Dec. 7, 1941, by the Japanese. At that time, I was at the picture show anxiously looking, suddenly they announced, all soldiers report back to their camp. I didn't know what it was all about. As I got out of the theater, I heard the paper boys yelling--Japs declared war on United States. I ran home as fast as I could and turned on the radio. Every station I turned on they were saying what happened.

The next day I went to school and the pupils in my class felt sorry for me. Day after day I listened to the radio. The FBI men told all the Japanese in Portland to go to the court house and have our finger print taken.

As days, weeks and months went by the evacuating days were creeping up. The day to go had come. As long as it was the request of the government we went to the assembly center.

At first most of the Portland people were evacuating. Next was the people living out of town and other vicinity. At last came the Wapato people from Washington. At first I didn't know many people but as I went along I got acquainted to other people.

In the center there was a big arena and in there the recreation department made basket ball courts and tennis and other thing. Later on they made baseball and softball field and was nice and fun. They had ping pong tables and lots of other thing.

The weather was mostly nice and gay. But at nights there were great big misquito and nearly all the people had misquito bits. Because of sickness they gave us typhoid and other shot. They got many nurse and doctors from outside.

The main thing is mess. They had a big mess hall but there were so many people that they had to eat two shifts. The dish we had nearly every day was stew which we got sick of it. And on Fridays we had fish that tasted like carp.

The first aid station came in handy because there were many cases. They had first aid class and many pupils got the official rating.

Canteen which have came in handy too. On hot days they would would have plenty of business and like the old men, every body would sit under the tree outside and sleep or just lie down. The canteen in Portland was small but it had soup to nuts. As for money they used coupon.

The fire and police department was well organized too. Sometimes they would have fire drill and usually it works out nicely.

Unfortunately the Wapato people had to leave for Wyoming and we were pretty lonesome.

We days went by the time to leave the center has come, and so as we start to pack it reminded me of the time in Portland.

As we got on the train I shouted to my friends and told him that I'll see them beyond the hills in Idaho. On the train, we didn't do anything. We were delayed at Nampa for we had some trouble.

About 7:00 at night we reached this camp.

I hope all the people in the world learns to work together and again have peace on earth good will toward men.