

Mary Hikida
Core 7 & 8
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My Life Since War Began

On Dec. 7, 1941 I was sitting by the stove listening to the radio. I was shocked to hear that Pearl Harbor was attacked by the Japanese. Next day after Pearl Harbor was attacked United States declared war on Japan. I knew right then we were going to be evacuated sooner or later in the future. As days went by the good programs in the radio were all about the war situation. News about the war was written in books, magazines, newspapers, and talks were given over the radio. Later restricted areas were put up near the Boeing plant. There were many army tents and soldiers scattered around there. Japanese stores near by were sold to Caucasian.

I lived in a part of Seattle called South Park and lived close to the Boeing plant. Many Caucasian lived around here and very few Japanese. The Japanese around there lived out of the city limit.

Christmas came one bright sunny day. Everybody had their shopping done, and the decorations their Christmas trees. That evening after I had eaten supper, I was surprised to find so many presents. As I was opening the packages, they were mostly from my Caucasian friends.

As days and months passed by the sad news of evacuation was heard over the radio.

I said to myself, "My hunch when the war started was right." As I heard more about the sad news, it said that evacuation is started compared to what zone you lived in. I knew our turn was coming soon, so I quited school that day and said goodbye to my school mates and teachers. The day for evacuation finally came on April 31, 1942. It was a busy, sad and exciting day. My pet dog had tears in his eyes. My eyes were red when I saw my dog was crying. I really couldn't cry, even if I tried. Friends came over and gave us presents, and even kissed us, right then I had tears in my eyes for the first time. The man who rented our house took care of the dog. A man drove us to Jefferson Park where we got on the bus. People were waving their handkerchief and shedding tears. When we got to Puyallup it was rainy and the roads were muddy in the camp. The place was very queer and I never dreamed of such a place like this. As we got things organized the best we could it seemed more homely. As days pass I got acquainted with people and places around there. I never knew there were so many Japanese. To pass the time away there were games, acts, movies, dancing and many other sports and activities. There were visiting hours at the gate for Caucasian to come to visit. Lots of my friends came to see me quite often. I received many letters from my friends. But one day I received a letter and I cried as I

read it. A sad thing had happen. My pet dog was run over by a truck going past and died instantly. I didn't know what to do but cry.

School began for childrens from 9th grade under. It really was fun to go to school. The work was easy and fun. Pupils who didn't want to come to school didn't have to. But school was fun then. Clubs were organized for ambitious girls.

Some months had pass when we had to be relocated. I was glad to be relocated for I was tired of that camp. One day we got notice that we were going to Idaho on August 30, 1941. We were all excited and busy. Everybody was talking about Idaho and how far apart we would live. The day finally came and everything was ready. When I got on the bus everybody was saying goodbye. We reached the train station in 10 minutes and then we were transferred to the train. This was my first experience riding on a train. After we had gone quite a ways we saw many beautiful scenery. It really seemed like we were on sight seeing trip. We got to Idaho September 1, 1941. When we were entering Idaho I could just feel the hot air. After we got to the train station, we rode on a bus 8 miles inward. It felt good to see my friends who were down here already. After I had registered I went to find my place. It wasn't very hard finding my place this time. As I got used to the camp a little better I went to every block so I wouldn't get lost if I came down this way. After awhile things were boring with nothing to do. So to pass the time everybody made souvenir or hobbies. I have of hobb y of song collection and I am making necklaces out of sea shells for a souvenir. Writing letters took some of my time.

The boring days was terrific, hot and dusty weather. But later it wasn't so bad.

Later movies, dancing, talents games and other activities were performed. Best of all movies pass my time away.

School was organized for 12th graders to nursery school. I was glad school had begun at last, for I was afraid I wouldn't catch up in my work. I am glad that school has started now.

One day it snow and I knew that winter was coming. The snow felt good for it was the first snow for a long time. It snowed quite often after that. Christmas came at last and everybody was happy for it snow that day. We were very fortunate to have a free Christmas dinner, than no Christmas at all. I didn't think we were going to have a Christmas tree, but we were sure lucky to get one. It sure was a nice Christmas. this year in camp because we got to eat with our family. After we ate the children shoed their talents at Christmas. Now that were here lets make this New Year a happy and successful one.