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Core Class Period 7&8
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MY EXPERIENCES OF THE PAST YEAR

On the bright day of December 7, 1941 we were all having a lots of fun when we heard this startling news that Pearl Harbor was attacked by Japan. We all became very shocked, since we were of Japanese descent. We wondered how Japan could do such a thing to this peaceful land of ours.

The next day when I was awakened by my mother and remembering it was school, I told her I didn't want to go to school because of what happened. But she said the best thing to do was go so I got ready. All the way to school I had a very funny feeling in me, telling me to turn back and go home again, but I got my courage and kept on. When I finally arrived at school, my heart was very heavy within me. I kept wondering what my friends attitude toward me would be. I soon found out that some were more kinder and some the opposite. All during that day, the only thing we did was listen to the news broadcast or talk about it. I only wished that they would not talk about it, because it made me feel very self concious. I was very happy that the day was over and time for us to go home. The days after that was not very bad ones but now and then we mentioned it.

As the days went by and it became to come closer to Christmas. I wondered if this Christmas will be as pleassant as the last. I think I will never forget this Christmas, because the people were so kind to us. I think they knew how we felt about this too.

As the days rolled by and the days more cheerful. Then came the day that broke the cheerfulness from our home. It was in the later part of March, when my father suddenly fell ill and passed away not three days later. It was during our spring vacation. I thought this was the saddest vacation I ever had. It was very lonely after he passed away, but we managed the best we could. Although it was very hard.

As the days went by and the days became week and the weeks months, it was soon May. It was on the 4th day of May when we heard that Portland was being evacuated. And we became to wonder when we were to be evacuated. Then not a week later we were told that we were to be evacuated too. We all hated to leave the little town of Milwaukie because we lived there all our lives. But since it was Army order, we thought the best thing to do was to obey it and show our patriotism to our country, although we thought it was unfair deal to us who are American citizens.

The people of our town were very nice to us and we found it very hard for us to part from them and they found it very hard to see us leave. When the day came for our departure, we had them good-bye, and said that we will see them again, very soon.

When we arrived at the center we found it very pleasant, although I was very lonely at first. But I overcame that very fast, as I began to make new friends. Some of the entertainments and games they had were baseball, basketball, Talent Revues, Picture shows, Saturday night dances, tennis, and etc. One of my most happiest days at the center was when the Milwaukie baseball team came to play the team in the center. I was very glad to see some of the boys from back home again. I was also very thrilled when the Yakima Valley people came. The day of their arrival I got so excited I didn't know what I was doing. I was very anxious to see my friends again. I also made many new friends from Washington, too.

I found to like the Assembly Center very much, but one thing that bothered me was seeing Jantzen Beach every night. Jantzen Beach as you might not know is one of Portland's largest amusement park. I used to remember the days that I went, before this terrible thing broke out.

As the days at the center went by people began to talk about being relocated. During this time there also was a rumor that the Yakima Valley group were to go to Wyoming and the Oregon group to Idaho. We all said it couldn't be true. How could they do such a thing to us. So we thought the best thing to do was wait and hear the truth about it. When we finally did, it was true that the Yakima Valley group were to go to Wyoming and the Oregon group to Idaho. And so again we had to part with our friends again. I think this was one of the saddest days at the Assembly center.

As the days became nearer for us to board the train and go to our new destination. I was in away very thrilled and in away very unhappy. I hated to leave the assembly center which I became very fond of. I know I will never forget the days that I spent there.

When the day really came for us to board the train, I was very thrilled, because this was the first time I ever rode on a train and probably the last one until the duration of the war. Since this was the first time I rode on a train I thought this was going to be a new experience for me, but when the train began to move I was very disappointed because it was just as if I was riding on a street car. The ride to this camp was a very cheerful one. I tried to look out the window as much as possible because I like scenery very much. The thing that I liked the best on the way here was the food. I don't think I ever tasted such delicious food ever since I was evacuated.

As we were nearing our destination, I began to wonder what the new center would be like. I knew that Southern Idaho was a dry land from what I learned in geography. When we finally arrived all we saw around us was sagebrush after sagebrush. I wondered how we were to going to live in a desert like this, after living in a place with large trees around us. We were also greeted by a terrific dust storm. Which pushed us that way and this way. And then came the big

wondering. Was the weather here going to be like this all the time. But as the days went by I began to like this new center very much, although I was homesick for Oregon and from the town I came from.

The days here began to go by very rapidly and it was soon November. I began to wonder when school will start again. When school finally did start, my first impression of school was how was I ever going to learn anything in this school. It was very hard for me to get acquainted for me to this new school. The school that I came from is a very modern one, with everything that we need in a school is there. But as the days went by I became to like it very much. And I will do my best to make this school a better one.

And here is the end of some of my doing during this year of 1942. And hoping that this war will soon end, so we may all go back to our friends again. From wherever we came from.