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9th Core  
Rm 5-A and B

### COMPOSITION

The beginning of December, 1941, I was going to school as usual and nothing disturbed my life until the seventh day. That was Sunday when Japan attacked Pearl Harbor without warning. I thought it was just a rumor but it turned out to be a real, true nightmare.

After the attack dark days followed: War was declared: Japanese school was closed: fathers were interned: Japanese business were ruined: A curfew was enforced: and finally there was evacuation. This movement of Portland Japanese began May the third, 1942

Our family were to go that day so we were packed and then waited for a taxi to take us to our new home. Our home or, the Assembly Center was formally known as the International Livestock Exposition. I was very curious to see the Center because I heard so many stories about it. When we finally arrived there I found the place much better than I expected.

There were six sections where we lived. These sections were divided into corridors and these into apartments. I was constantly finding myself lost because the building was so large.

What fascinated me the most was the big Arena which was located in the center of the building. Staring at the Arena I can just imagine a livestock exposition. I could see cowboys, throngs of people, cows, horses, and everything! Oh, how I wish I could see a show! Later it was made into a gym where you can play volleyball, basketball, tennis and badminton. The Arena was always filled with people and it was the most popular spot.

Another popular spot was the canteen. Because it was summer it was very hot. And since the canteen sold ice cream, soda pop, and candy it was full of customers.

I can still remember the first night at the center. Since we were all under one roof you can hear snoring, babies crying, radios, etc. But I was so tired that as soon as I closed my eyes I fell asleep.

The mess hall was under the same roof too. It seated 2,000 people at one time. When the dinner bell would sound everybody would dash for their seats. My pals and I would always get the front table and we were always the first ones seated. Later they had permanent seats.

After the first three or four weeks went by the Yakima Valley Japanese were evacuated with us. I ushered some of them and found them very friendly and nice. After I met some of the girls we would sit in the Arena and talk and boast about our home town.

When everybody began to know each other very much and when it was the most fun it was announced that the Yakima Valley Japanese were to be relocated to Wyoming, and the Portlanders to Idaho. Nobody liked the news but it was too late to do anything.

It was a sad day when they left. After the last train was out of sight everybody tried to believe that they will meet again to have more fun than they ever had. A few days went by and then letters started to pour in from our friends. It was fun receiving and writing letters.

Then it was time for us to go. I didn't want to go because Portland is a wonderful place. But riding on a train was fun. The food was delicious. The chicken we had tasted so good that I got second serving.



I couldn't sleep because I was cramped up in my seat and because I was too excited. The next day it was very hot and stuffy and I wanted to go outside. The hours that went by after that was monotonous. Then about four o'clock the train stopped and we were told that this was the end of the ride. We then rode on a bus to Minidoka.

I was surprised how big the camp was. I didn't like Idaho for many reasons. I didn't like it because of its weather, water, the sagebrush, smell of sagebrush, rattlesnakes, and ticks. I was afraid to even come near to a sagebrush in fear of snakes and ticks.

Day after day all I did was play. Because of the weather I could not play any outdoor sports so all I played was ping-pong. Soon I got tired of it and wished the school would start. My wish came true and now I regret that I wished. Not that I don't like school but I always get stuck on compositions.

Soon it will be 1943 and I hope that year will bring me luck and more fun. I hope that I will get to see my Yakima friends again and that I'll get to like to write compositions.