

Shuso Kumata  
9- Core- (7 & 8th period)  
Jan 3, 1943

#### HOW OUR LIFE HAS CHANGED IN A YEAR

When ever I think of the date when the war broke out, a tingling sensation runs down my backbone, for I think of (a) my future as a complete wreck, but thinking it over I seem to see a little hope, so I try to make the best of that thought.

Ever since the attack on "Pearl Harbor" I had no hope for studying at school, since we were to be evacuated from the homes we loved so much. I thought that immediately after Dec. 7th we were to be evacuated to the Assembly Center in Puyallup, but not till 6 months' after that date were we evacuated.

In Seattle these 6 months seemed to pass quickly and I graduated the Washington Jr. High School I was attending and attended the Garfield High School for 4 months, as these months rolled along I got my close friends addresses.

Then came the first mass evacuation of Seattle, April 28, 1942 and approximately 500 citizens and aliens of Japanese decent were speeding their way to Puyallup assembly center in the Puyallup fairgrounds. Within a week the district that we were in was going to be evacuated, being so excited we stored the things that we thought would not come in use in our homes in Puyallup. Doing so we regret is very much, for we stored the most useful materials.

During the few days left in our beloved Seattle I bade farewell to my friends leaving before me. As the date of our evacuation drew nearer I withdrew from school and also departing from my friends.

On May 11, 1942 the district which I was in was evacuated from the designated localities that we were supposed to be. Soon we left the home town for most of us but restricted to all of us.

Traveling at a very terrific speed we soon reached the town of Puyallup. Finally reached the Fair grounds, and reached our home for a indefinite length of time.

We were placed in Area D, here we spent 4 months of the indefinite length of camp life. During these months I kept my self busy for a half month working on the supply crew for the kitchen of Area D.

Since our timekeeper said that we were under aged and was not going to get paid, I resigned from such a position that had no money in it. From that day on I started to sell the Seattle Times for a week or so, about 3 days after I started the 3 boys besides me noticed that our daily pay was decreasing steadily, so discussing among ourselves we decided to leave our boss without any helpers and desert him.

For the next 3 month I did nothing but play from the time I got up to the time it was dark. During this period I met the most friends by playing games, baseball, football, volleyball and other sports.

For a month or so I spent my time playing chess, checkers and cards. At the latter part of this months an notice was issued for us in Puyallup to evacuate this area spend the rest of the duration in Idaho.

On August 11, 1942 an advance cadre of 200 men and women were on their way to Idaho. This relocation center was called "Minidoka" even though this center was not in this county. It is located 15 miles from the town of Eden and 27 miles from Twin Falls.



The first evacuation of Puyallup's residents were from Area D.--Block 5 on August 15, 1942. This evacuation of 500 or more evacuees started off to the Puyallup railroad station about at 9:00 A.M. and at 10:00 A.M. they were boarded a train leaving the pacific coast for the duration and maybe for ever.

For the following few days the remaining residents of Puyallup were getting ready to leave the restricted area.

The block which I was situated was left deserted at August 19, 1942, the very eager look on all the faces of the people leaving this block seemed to say they wanted to get to Idaho, but upon there surprize we were greeted by sagebrush and dust. These sagebrushes never seemed to have an end.

When the train was stopped we were dirty with dust and presperation. Soon we were being on busses heading to our new homes for the duration. We entered the center for the duration and the dust was worse than out at the train, but regardless of the dust we had quite a reception, that gave us clean cold water, and took care of our baggages.

Then 2 months of loafing was my job, but deciding to get a real job I signed up for a job at the Warehouse as a swamper. I had fun on the job until school began so we had to quit this position.

Christmas came and we were disappointed for we celebrated our Christmases as the same old day, different from the past.

I was not as observant to this Christmas as the Christmas of the past for we were in a camp.

Now we face a New Year with a renewed hope, and praying that these months of horrors will soon come to an everlasting peace.