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Core 9 (7 & 8)
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My Life Since Evacuation

Some of my friends and I organized a club and made a den, where we could spend our spare time during rainy days. One day (Dec. 7, 1941) we got together for some fun in the den. One of the boys was listening to the crystal radio set that we constructed. Suddenly he jumps up as if he sat on something sharp. He shouts to us, "Pearl Harbor was attacked by the Japs." Not believing him, we remarked about his hearing. Picking up the other set I found out it was true. Going home I heard some details about the attack.

The main topic at school next day was about the attack. I heard the president's speech and the declaration of war by Congress. Life went as usual. Then curfew laws and a law keeping us within 5 miles of our home. Also came many rumors such as we were to be evacuated to California, Wyoming, and many other places. Finally news broke that we were to evacuate to the Puyallup Fair grounds. I found out that our estimated stay was from three days to three months. All of our firearms, cameras, fields, etc. were taken by the Police. We had to quit school in order to help. This brought down the school attendance to less than half its former size. We were not all evacuated at the same time. The last on May 16. I left on May 16. We had to register and have a physical examination before leaving.

On May 16, my last day in Seattle, at least for the duration if the war, I was up visiting my intimate friends. The time flew fast for me and soon it was time to leave. Arriving at the starting point we boarded the bus and the procession left Seattle. The trip took about 1 hour. Upon reaching camp I learned that it was divided into 4 areas, Area A, B, C, and D. My home for the next three months was in Area D, the fairgrounds proper. The other were parking lots. House were build on racing lanes and other places. D had many advantages over the others except that were because we were inclosed behind high walls. I lived under the grandstands and though dark we were protected from the heat and rain. The Japs. from the rural district were evacuated here so I made many friends.

Sports such as baseball, table tennis, horseshoe and many other minor sports were held. Contests were held to see which teams of each area played against each other to decide the champion.

Then came August and with rumors of where we were to go for our permanent relocation. Then official stated that we were to go to a place in southeastern Idaho, Area D going first. There would be no curfew and less restriction. My stay was one day less than three months, coming on May 16 and leaving Aug. 16. The others

were here longer as I came on the last day and am leaving on the first day of the movement.

So saying good-by until we meet again in Minidoka, I left on the bus for the station. There I waited about an hour, then started on my first train ride. Our route was along the coast down to Portland and from there turned and went along the Columbia River. The trip took from 10:30, August 15 to 3:00 Aug 16. There were many interesting sights such as, a Indian spearing fish. The August sun was hot for me as Seattle had a not to cold or hot climate.

We reached the end of the track and after a 15 min. ride in a bus we were here. The days following were hot and dusty.

Then came school and our carefree life of nothing to do but play and do some chores was over, at least for a while. The school is altogether different from my former school. The hour were from 8:45 to 3:10 and more subjects were had. But during emergencies teachers can not get teachers right away so it can't be help.

This is the story of my life since Dec. 7, 1941 until now.