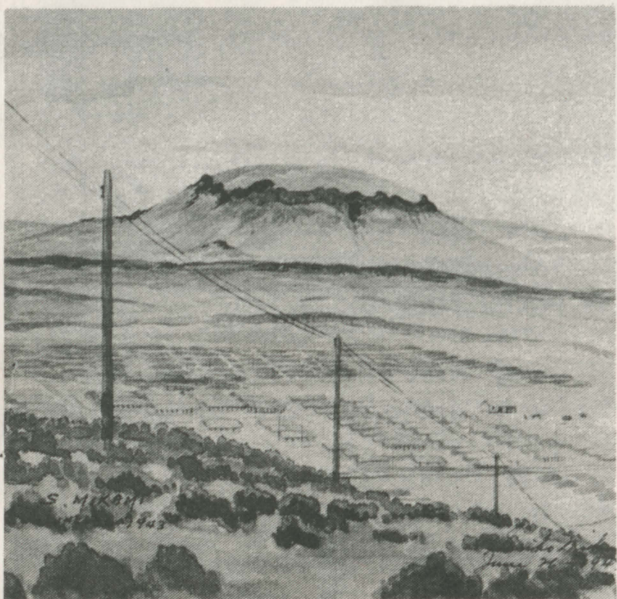


TULE LAKE PILGRIMAGE



Watercolor of Abalone Mountain by Suiko Mikami

Our Journey Continues...

August 26-28, 1994

sponsored by the
Tule Lake Committee



photo by Wayne Collins, courtesy of the Japanese American Historical Society

Tule Lake Concentration Camp: home for 18,000 Japanese Americans from 1942 to 1946

Tule Lake Relocation and Segregation Center

On February 19, 1942 President Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 which allowed the U.S. Army to force 120,000 Japanese Americans, two thirds of whom were U.S.-born citizens, into 10 desert concentration camps. One-sixteenth or more Japanese ancestry and residence in Arizona, California, Oregon, and Washington, were the only criteria for internment. For these men, women, and children, E.O. 9066 eliminated the constitutional protections of due process and the Bill of Rights.

This act was the culmination of decades of anti-Asian agitation,

including the passage of 500 anti-Asian laws, racist propaganda campaigns and physical violence.

In 1943 a loyalty oath was forced upon all the people in the concentration camps. Folks who responded negatively were called "No No" or "disloyal". Tule Lake, located on the border with Oregon, was designated the "Segregation Center" for these so-called "disloyal". Resistance to War Relocation Authority policies at Tule Lake was very strong, resulting in Army occupation, violence and martial law.

The History of the Tule Lake Pilgrimage

At the end of WWII, with the close of the last camp. Japanese Americans began rebuilding their lives and community. Much of this fell on the shoulders of young Nisei, struggling to raise their families, while caring for aging, financially-ruined parents.

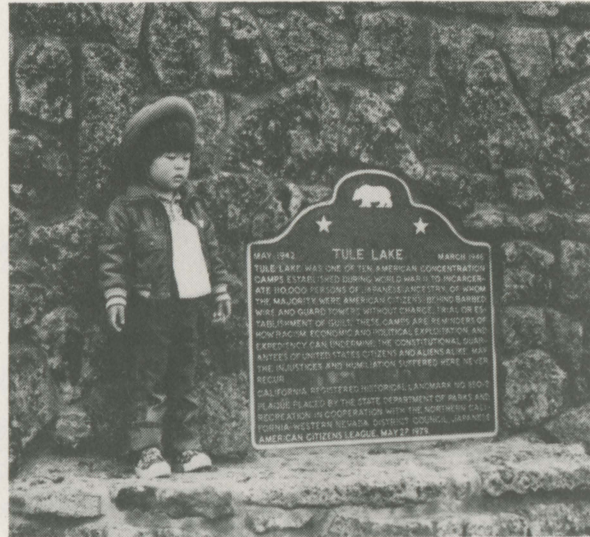
In the 1960's the Civil Rights Movement against racism ignited an explosive debate on equality and justice. Sansei joined young Blacks, Chicanos, and other Asian Americans in the struggle for higher education and the right to learn our suppressed histories through ethnic studies. It was through this struggle that many Sansei learned that our families had spent WWII in a U.S. concentration camp.

From 1974 to 1991, eight pilgrimages to Tule Lake were organized by students, community activists, and former internees. These pilgrimages, along with community events like the Day of Remembrance commemorations, developed sentiments among Japanese Americans for redress.



After a decade of struggle, the redress movement achieved victory with the signing of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988. This law offers an official apology as well as a token \$20,000 in individual compensation to camp survivors. Although not everyone who was affected by the forced evacuation received the individual payment, the government apology vindicated all Japanese Americans.

Our Journey Continues...



Sharing the Past...

For many, redress began a healing process. Over 100 former internees attended the pilgrimage to Tule Lake in 1991 to reevaluate their understanding of their camp experience. Others are just beginning to come to terms with this painful period in their lives. The Tule Lake Pilgrimage offers a unique opportunity for all former internees to share their experiences in a supportive environment. Everyone, from all camps, generations, orientations, religions and ethnicities, is welcome. Those who weren't in camp will be able to learn from those who were.

Our Legacy...

Individuals made different decisions about how to respond to internment. Some thought cooperating with the US Government was best. Others resisted. These decisions have had a lasting impact on the community and on individual families. However, whether resister or veteran the community was united in viewing the internment as a violation of the U.S. Constitution. The desire of former internees that similar injustices never recur was one of the goals of the redress movement. Only by learning about internment and teaching the young can we ensure this goal.

History repeats...

Current events show we need to learn from our past. Today's anti-immigrant sentiments recall the early 1900's when racists restricted Asian immigration and denied Issei (Japanese immigrants) citizenship and the right to own land. Similar stereotypes are being used now in attempts to close our borders and deny rights to recent immigrants. The same intolerance led to the recent fire-bombing of the JACL office, the NAACP office and a Jewish synagogue in Sacramento.

Never give up! Gambaro!

Fred Korematsu, the Heart Mountain draft resisters, and others who challenged the government's actions testify to the Japanese community's willingness to fight for what we believe in. We have inherited a legacy of courage, determination, and sacrifice, from the pioneering Issei to the courageous Nisei. We achieved redress through the efforts of thousands of ordinary people. We must pass on this legacy to the next generation, but this means coming to terms with the experience ourselves and sharing it with our children. We must learn these lessons and build a society where everyone is respected and valued, and where justice and basic needs are the priority. In this respect our journey continues.



Tule Lake Pilgrimage 1994

This year's Pilgrimage promises to be a great experience. This is the plan. Suggestions are welcome.

Friday:

In the morning board buses in San Francisco, San Jose, Oakland, Sacramento etc. Meet folk, see videos, discuss and sing away the seven hour ride with lunch on the road. Supper in Klamath Falls will be followed by a welcoming ceremony at the Oregon Institute of Technology (OIT) where we will be lodging.

Saturday:

Camp Tour: In the morning we will tour the camp site, visit the infamous stockade, and inspect a former barrack. Former Tule Lake internees will tell us what it was like to be in camp.

Workshops: In the afternoon workshops will be held where you can learn and tell about life at Tule Lake and internment. You are invited to share your joys, sorrows and other feelings about internment, being Nikkei, etc.

Cultural Program: In the evening a cultural program will feature Asian American writers, musicians, and actors. This embodies the spirit and creativity of the Asian American community.

Sunday:

Memorial Service: In the morning a grave site interfaith memorial service will be held to remember those who passed away in Tule Lake and other concentration camps and those who did not live to see redress. After the service we will bus home and stop for supper on the road.

The Tule Lake Committee invites you to join in the 1994 Tule Lake Pilgrimage and be part of this rich experience. Call 415-863-8141, 408-292-6938, 916-444-8650 for info. For disability information call 510-524-2624. We could use your help also!

Arigato gozai masu!!

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