

PART 5: CONCLUSION

I tried to get information from my Great Aunty Alma's diary. She died from a tragic car accident. The family members who possess all of this information were hard to get in contact with. When I did get in contact with them I asked if I could get this information and they said, "sure, no problem." I drove to Spokane Washington to get it and instead got a bunch of stuff irrelevant to what I was looking for. I said that I need her diary. And they said, "Oh we'll send it to you." So I went back to Seattle and waited. They did not send it to me. I called and asked again. They then sent me a book about the internment camps. This was a little closer but what I wanted was the diary. I did not want to be a pest, but I called again and asked once more. They said, "OK well send you some stuff." So I waited and finally some more information came. This time it was my aunt Cora's JACL letters and one news paper from Alma's camp experience in Manzanar. So finally I asked again, and they said they did not know where it was. I waited almost a year to get this diary and for some reason I could not get a hold of it. What is very interesting is, my cousin, Aunty Alma's granddaughter, did a paper on Alma, and got the diary a month before I asked for it. My cousin said it would be easy to get a hold of. I'm not sure why, but for some reason it seems they don't think I should have access to this information.

When asking the questions to the family members who I interviewed, there was always some tension. It seemed like there was a lot of information that they were not telling me. Some things people did not want to talk about at all. I could tell that this was still, over fifty years later, a very touchy subject. It was this way

with all of them. At one time or another they all had a facial expression of emptiness, and pain, both at the same time. It was interesting. All of the participants seemed happy to talk about it, but some times it was hard to get them really talking. I could tell that even though they had overcome a lot, it still left a big scar in their minds.

With all of the hardships from the past, the Japanese American community has somehow persevered. History has been against them, but today many have established themselves in some of the highest positions in society. Their "yellow" faces still bring much racism and stereotypes, which may never end, but I feel they will continue to strive and make the best of what they have; a strong community, strong family values, and from this, much confidence in their ability to succeed.