

Part 2:
Masayo's Internment Experience

The first family member's name is Masayo Uyeda, my Great Aunt. When all of this broke out she was living in Seattle with her mother. She was in Jr. High School, sixteen at the time. Masayo was very nice to share some stories from the diary she kept. Masayo and her mother had to give "a whole bunch of stuff" to the junk man. She said they had a beautiful, ornate organ, and had to sell it for fifteen dollars because that's all they could get, and needed to get rid of it. One of her school teachers came over and saw the organ being taken away and wanted to know how much they gave Masayo's mother. When Masayo told her, the teacher actually started crying. The idea for the people being relocated was, "get rid of it now, its time to go, there's no choice.". Masayo said that was the instance which stood out in her memory the most.

On May 5, 1942, Masayo and her mother were sent to Puyallup Washington. They reached the relocation center at 3:30 p.m. registered and unpacked. No one told them how long they would be there, where they would be going, or if they would ever be able to go home. For dinner they had a potato, carrots, a sliced pickle, a slice of Spam, a peach, bread, and a cup of milk. All of the food was put in a tin bowl mixed together. At 6:00 that evening they made their beds. This consisted of a canvas sack stuffed with hay. Masayo said the "mattress" was very tall, but actually kind of comfortable. Masayo remembered her mother being very unhappy because she left her hot water bottle by the sink back home in Seattle. Later that night Masayo was assigned her first job. She was to be working in the mess hall. They both got to bed around 10:00, but neither of them slept very well that night.

The next morning they woke up at 5:30 a.m. and Masayo went to the mess hall to help set up for breakfast. That morning they ate bread, butter, an apple, cornflakes, and milk. Since she worked so hard that morning she was given three Vienna sausages. She went on to tell me about some of the foods that were routinely served for meals. Rice was always served at meals, although most of the time it was burned, noodles with chipped tuna fish, chocolate pudding, jello, stew and much more. She said, "But remember all of this was given to you at one time in your little bowl. You might be happy to have some chocolate pudding, but it may be mixed in the bowl with the stew or noodles, all on rice. Not so tasty any more."

The room she stayed in had very knotty pine floors, with many holes. She remembered the weeds growing through the holes. The rooms were partitioned from the next-door neighbors by a sheet hung up by a rope. She remembered how there was no privacy, and you could always hear people arguing, and talking. If you had anything private to talk about you had to whisper, even then people would still hear your conversation. One of the most embarrassing things for Masayo was the bathroom situation at night. There was a curfew that started at 9:30 p.m., so if you had to use the bathroom at night you had to go in a "potty pan" and dump it in the morning. With the walls being literally paper thin, you could hear others, and be heard going to the bathroom in the middle of the night. The actual toilets were, as Masayo said, "Eyuk!" "You would sit down and the person was actually right beside you, practically touching your shoulders together. It was just a hole to sit over.

When you need to concentrate I like to be ALONE!". It was very hard, she said she never got used to it.

While in Puyallup Masayo spent some of her free time learning to play poker, listening to records, playing baseball, learning to dance, knitting, and visiting neighbors in other areas. She also played ping pong and played the Kotto, "any thing to pass the time away." She had a shorthand class for one hour a day, and worked 40 hours a week.

One of the things she remembered the most about Puyallup was the time her elementary school principle came to visit them. Her name was Ada J. Mahorn. She came with her collie dog, Jerry, from Bailey Gatzert School, in Seattle. She remembered many people crying, happy to see someone from the outside. She ate lunch with them, "at the same table even" remembered Masayo.

Masayo continued the interview by telling me some of the days that stood out in her memory at the center in Puyallup: June 9, she ate her first ice cream cone from the canteen. June 10, she got her first Babe Ruth candy bar. On June 12, she was notified that she had to work 46 hours a week in the kitchen. June 14, she went to Sunday School, noted that it was very rainy there that summer. July 3, she and all of the kitchen workers got their blood tested. They saw a judo and a sumo tournament in another area. They also got to see a movie sponsored by Puyallup Presbyterian Church. August 20, the first bunch of people from their area, C, were relocated to Minidoka. She said this was a very sad time for many. August 29, they spent the day packing their stuff again, and on August 30, they were off to Minidoka.

In Minidoka Masayo and her mother had one room to themselves. It had two cots and a pot belly stove. Their friends made them a small table with chairs. They also had a clever carpenter, who came to visit once, make a nice screen with carved designs to cover their beds.

Masayo got a job as a waitress right away. She also went to school right on the next block. She said it was nice to be so close to the school. Masayo aspired to become a nurse. She could not take the classes that she wanted to take because there were so few teachers, so her "program to become a nurse went down the tube.". She said "I wonder were the government got those teachers because they were pretty darn bad.". She took classes from some of the Nisei teachers and she said they were great, "a lot better than the teachers who were appointed by the government.".

Masayo said Minidoka had out houses, away from the barracks. She said this was more isolated, and a little more private, compared to the assembly center in Puyallap. The shower area was a big open space. It was hard for her being a "bashful teenager". She learned to help make "ge-tas" to go to the shower. There was hot water in the showers because there were always men working in the boiler rooms. She did all of her wash by wash boards in the big sinks.

At first the food was really bad. She said many men had got jobs as cooks who never cooked a grain of rice in their lives. After a few months those same men became "pretty darn good cooks.". She said people in the blocks where fathers were cooks before going into the camp were very lucky, because they only cooked for their blocks

mess hall and got to eat delicious meals. Even with the improvement in cooking, the smell of mutton stew still makes her stomach churn.

Masayo was part of the first graduating class in Minidoka. She was very excited because the whole class received an actual diploma. They all got a pass to go to Twin Falls Idaho so they could get graduation pictures taken. While she was there she remembered ordering shoes from Sears and Roebuck. At the time she said, " It was pretty cool, eh?". Her neighbor made her a dress for a graduation present, which she thought was very nice, and she was lucky to have people around her who cared so much.

Minidoka was very windy, dust was always blowing all around. She told me that it rained and rained. Then all of the dirt and dust turned into mud, and in many places it was ankle deep. Then in the winter it would snow and snow. Summer was very very hot. She told me a little story about one day in the winter when she and a friend were running to the mess hall. "It was very very cold. Just the day before it had rained, and all of the sudden everything froze. We were very cold and we wanted to get to the mess hall as fast as we could. We were running and my foot got stuck in a hole in the ground. I fell and skinned my knee. When I looked to see what it was, I found that it was a foot print in the deep mud, frozen solid. The emergency doctor didn't clean the wound very good, he just applied a little medicine and sterile dressing. To this day I still have Minidoka sand granules embedded in my knee, see, pretty neat souvenir, eh?". I got to see the dirt, stuck in my Great Aunts knee.

After her graduation Masayo got a job full time as a waitress. She did this job for a while, until she got a job at the hospital as a dietitian. This started her on her path to become what she always aspired to be, a nurse. After that she was a ward secretary, then a nurses aide. She worked in surgery and learned a lot from a real resident nurse, Miss Teru Uno. She said there were some really "kooky" nurses and Doctors hired from the outside. The interned doctors and nurses were the most help for her. She said they all helped her learn how to scrub for surgery, give shots, put up sterile packages, sharpen needles, etc.. Masayo told me she saw her first autopsy there in the camp. After seeing the inners of the corpse she had to go to the mess hall, and they served stew. "I was ready to up-chuck!", she said. She really loved her work there and this inspired her to become a nurse even more than before.

Life in Minidoka became much better later. Everything was very organized, everyone learned to work together as teen agers (washing dishes, waitressing in the mess halls). She was especially happy because camp gave her the opportunity to become a nurse. While she was there she was able to choose what she wanted to do, and she learned a lot by experience. She said she "loved that experience". She said the kids started getting nice records of the "big bands" for the school dances. They decorated all of the dances with crepe paper. They also had parties for the boys going into the army. At Christmas they decorated the mess hall with home made decorations and other Christmas items. Later, Masayo said, they got a barrack where they showed movies. She also helped organize a talented swing band with Niseis for dancers. They performed at

programs and other functions. At high School they had A King and Queen contest, and she was proud to say, "We even had a senior prom!". They put on a lot of shows for entertainment, like talent shows. They got to play baseball against country girls and city girls, she said "Of course the country girls always won.". One of Masayo's favorite things to do while in the camp was being in the Minidoka Mass Choir. They traveled to a couple of little cities near Minidoka in "convoy trucks". She said there were about 100 performers, and they all had a good time singing. She said "Most people in those cities never even saw Japanese or talked to a Japanese, so after those trips they welcomed us with open arms. Of course they would, because we were good!". The best part for Masayo came later when family members were allowed to visit , and they were able to go visit family members. "I was able to go visit my brothers and sisters in Spokane. Once my mother got to visit them also, that was very nice."

Life was very hard on her mother at first, "without her chazuke, ume boshi, and tsukemono"(several Japanese dishes). In camp Masayo and her Mother were close to a family who were their neighbors in Seattle. She remembers her mother being very sad at one time because she watched her neighbor friends have twins, but later both babies died and were buried in Minidoka. When her Mother started getting letters from her brothers and sisters, things started to become a little happier for her. She also remembers her mother having good times, sharing stories and many things with other Issei friends.

In Minidoka people planted many gardens. She said the farmers were incredible, they turned the dry desert into nice gardens which produced a lot of great vegetables. Men also worked in the boiler room, a place where there was fire to heat up the water for showers and wash rooms. Her husband's father worked in a boiler room. Masayo's mother got a job as a janitress for the high school. She remembers her mother going to work early in the morning to light up the pot belly stoves so the rooms would be warm when school started.

At seventeen years old, Masayo's husband Mark started out in the Arboga assembly center in Marysville California. He was sent there on May 27, 1942. On July 29, 1942, Mark was sent to Tule Lake, Newell California. Her husband Mark Uyeda was sent to Tule Lake. While there he had several jobs. First he worked on the coal crew, then he was a mess hall dish washer, then the mess hall inventory clerk, after that he worked in the poultry care warehouse, and finally he worked in the sanitation corps. He finally left on February 1, 1946. Mark had to fumigate rooms when the internees left the camp. He also boarded up all of the rooms when everyone was gone. He was one of the last to move from Tule Lake, "Closed the gates behind them, literally." Masayo said. When Mark did leave, the government gave him a one way ticket to go anywhere in the United States. He chose to go the furthest east you could go, from Sacramento California he flew straight to New York city. Masayo thought that was really neat.

NEWS LETTER

SOUVENIR
EDITION



CAMP HARMONY

ART DEPT.

SUMMARY AND REPORT

MIN.

F 10/6/25

Marital status: S. M. () W. () D. ()

Occupation: Student

- | | |
|--|---|
| 11. Relatives in U.S. Mil. Service..... () | 11. Father interned..... () |
| 13. Entire education in U.S..... <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 12. Immediate relatives in Japan... () |
| R.O.T.C..... () | 13. Gunji Kyoren..... () |
| 16. Christian..... () | <u>6</u> years in school in Japan.. () |
| 17. J.A.C.L..... () | <u>6</u> years in Jap. language |
| Boy or Girl Scouts of America.. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | school in U.S..... <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Y.M.C.A. or Y.W.C.A..... () | Post-graduate work in Japan... () |
| K of C, Mason, Rotarian, other | 14. Travelled to Japan ___ times..... () |
| Nat'l Fraternity or club..... () | Travelled for foreign interests |
| 25. Japanese birth record cancelled | ___ years..... () |
| or cancellation pending..... () | Resided in Japan ___ years..... () |
| 27. Yes..... () No... <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 15. Employed by Jap. Govt. Agency.. () |
| 28. Yes..... <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No... () | Employed by steamship line |
| F.B.I. <u>NO RECORD</u> | Occ. _____ () |
| O.N.I. _____ | Employed by listed firm |
| W.D.C. _____ | _____ () |
| W.R.A. _____ | Jap. Language School Instr..... () |
| The Office of The Provost Marshal General | 18. Shintoist..... () |
| does not object to the employment of this | Buddhist or other Oriental..... <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| individual at this time in plants and | 17. Member of a listed organization |
| facilities important to the war effort. | _____ () |
| For The Provost Marshal General: | 18. Japanese Language proficiency: |
| <i>[Signature]</i> | None.. () Fair.. () Good..... () |
| Remarks: _____ | 25. Dual citizen..... () |
| _____ | 26. Repatriation requested; or |
| _____ | intends to repatriate..... () |
| _____ | |
| _____ | |
| _____ | |

The Joint Board, having considered this case on the facts available to it on this date, has taken the following action:

1. It recommends the granting of indefinite leave at this time.
2. This individual may not be employed in plants and facilities important to the war effort for the present.

For the Joint Board:
Per: [Signature] Date _____

成績通知簿

Typing I
Transferred to II

REPORT CARD
Hunt High School
Hunt, Idaho

1942-43

Name Horinchi, Masayo Grade 12 Teacher Mela Chashi

Cumulative Grade

Date	Grade	Days Absent
1		
2		
3	5/21/43 A	3
4	7/6/43 A	1

The last grade reported at the left applies to the entire year previous to the date it was given. These grades are not averaged. A-Excellent; B-Good; C-Average; D-Below Average; E-No Credit
 左に過去一ヶ年間の成績をお知らせしますが平均点はつけておりません
 標点 Aは優秀 Bは可良 Cは普通 Dは普通以下 Eは落第です
 左端の数字は学期です

ANALYSIS OF GRADE

This is the most important part of the report. It reveals what should be improved and what is now being satisfactorily learned. The analysis in Column 1 is for Term 1, Column 2 for Term 2, etc.

以下は習った学科の上達振りと成績をお知らせする大切な部分です。234の縦の欄内には各学期の得点をつけ込みました

	TERM			
	1	2	3	4
1. Accuracy 仕事の正確さ			B	B
2. Neatness of work done 仕事の綺麗さ			A	A
3. Initiative 自発的努力			A	A
4. Ability to follow instructions 指示命令を会得する能力			A	A
5. Effort in practicing correct habits 良習慣をつねとする努力			A	A

FIRST TERM

TEACHER'S COMMENT

SIGNATURE

PARENT'S COMMENT

SIGNED

SECOND TERM

TEACHER'S COMMENT

SIGNED

PARENT'S COMMENT

SIGNED

THIRD TERM

TEACHER'S COMMENT

SIGNED

J. Ohashi

PARENT'S COMMENT

SIGNED

I. Horinchi

FOURTH TERM

TEACHER'S COMMENT

SIGNED

Ruth H. Wada

PARENT'S COMMENT

SIGNED

必讀要知

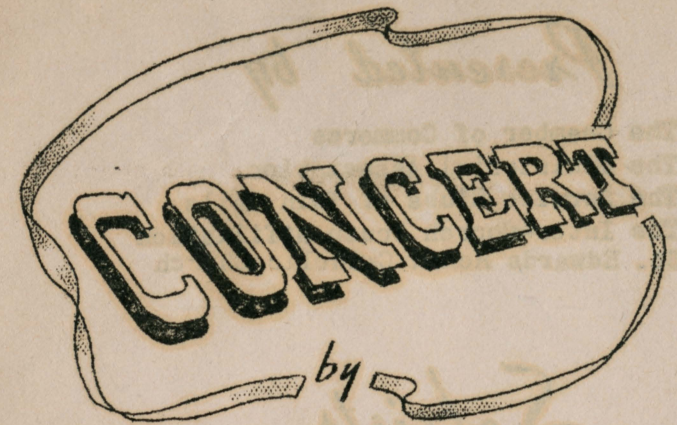
THE MINIDOKA PROJECT

Harry L. Stafford.....Project Director
Philip Schafer.....Assistant Project Director
George L. Townsend....Chief, Community Services

THE MINIDOKA CHOIR

Miko Hagiwara.....Choir Manager
Kay Takeoka.....Assistant Manager
Ayako Morita.....Secretary
Chicko Watanabe.....Librarian
Eva Hoshido.....Robes

Mae Hara.....Director
Miyo Hata....Accompanist



by

The Minidoka

MASS CHOIR

FEBRUARY 9, 1943
EIGHT P.M.

**FIRST METHODIST CHURCH
TWIN FALLS, IDAHO**

Presented by

The Chamber of Commerce
The Ministerial Association
The Service Clubs of Twin Falls
The Inter-Church Youth Affiliation
St. Edwards Roman Catholic Church

Soloists

SACHIKO OCHI KODAIRA Pianist

Studied under

Mrs. Bertha Poney Jacobson, Univ-
ersity of Washington...formerly of
the Cornish School of Music, Seattle,
Washington.

John Blackmore...Boston Conserv-
atory of Music.

Sigismond Stojowski of New York
Marcel Maas of Brussel Conserv-
atory, Belgium.

TERUKO AKAGIViolinist

Studied under

Viola Stevens PardoCornish
School of Music, Seattle.

Lenore Ward ForbesCornish
Cyril TowbinFormerly of New
York, now in California.

Francis Armstrong of Seattle, Wash-
ington.

Recently soloist with the Univers-
ity of Washington Symphony Orchestra.

YOSHI UCHIDA Bass Soloist

Former member of the Lincoln High
School Chanters, Seattle, Washington

PROGRAMME

I

O Be Joyful, All Ye LandsGretchaninoff
Beautiful SaviorChristianson
Alto Soloist . Waka Mochizuki
Choir

II

RomanceWieniawski
ZigeunerweisenSarasate
Teruko Akagi . Violinist

III

Today There is Ringing Christianson
Gloria Old French Carol
The Saepherd's Story Dickinson
Soprano Soloist . Minnie Yokoyama
Tenor Soloist . Mike Hagiwara
Choir

IV

The Living God O'Hara
Volga Boatman (in Russian) . . Russian Folksong
Yoshi Uchida . Bass Soloist

V

Deep River Negro Spiritual
Every Time I Feel the Spirit . . Negro Spiritual
Goin' Home Dvorak
Soprano Soloist . Minnie Yokoyama
Alto Soloist . Grace Hagiwara
Tenor Soloist . Mike Hagiwara
Choir

VI

Thirty-two Variations Beethoven
Etude Liszt
Sachiko Ochi Kodaira . Pianist

VII

The Lord's Prayer (Finlandia) Sibelius
The Lost Chord Sullivan
Alto Soloist . Waka Mochizuki
Choir

The Minidoka Project

Harry L. StaffordProject Director
Philip SchaferAssistant Project Director
George L. Townsend.....Chief, Community Services

The Minidoka Choir

Mike Hagiwara.....Choir Manager
Kay Takeoka.....Assistant Manager
Ayako Morita.....Secretary
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Eva Hoshide.....Robes

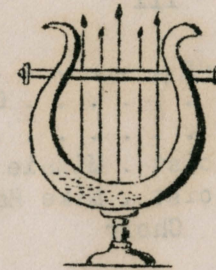
Mae Hara.....Director
Miye Hata....Accompanist

Acknowledgements

Jerome North Side News
Jerome High School
Jerome Lumber Co.
Mrs. A. D. Moseley
First Presbyterian Church of Twin Falls

The *JEROME*
MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION
PRESENTS

THE MINIDOKA
MASS CHOIR



JANUARY 28, 1943
8:00 PM
HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM
JEROME, IDAHO

Mine

PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT RECORD				
FROM	TO	EMPLOYER, BUSINESS, ADDRESS	POSITION AND DUTIES	PAY
		STUDENT		

EMPLOYMENT RECORD					
FROM	TO	DIVISION AND SUPERVISOR	POSITION AND DUTIES	PAY	REASON FOR LEAVING
8-31		Steward Krumenacker	Waitress ^{Part time} Student	B ^{12/10/43}	Redesign
5/11		" Wilder	" Fuel House #21	B	Transfer
4/22		Medical - Neher	Dictator # 21	B	Transfer
7/1		Steward - Wilder	" "	B	Term. 8/5/43
8/6		Medical Neher	Ward Secretary	B	Release
1-28-44		" "	Wood Club 2-B-542	B	Release
6/1/44		" "	Nurse Aide 2-b-536	B	7/25/45 Personal

MAR 9 1944

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
CITIZEN'S
SHORT-TERM

#11647

This is to certify that Masayo Horiuchi ;
residing in Block No. 21-6-A within Minidoka
Relocation Area is allowed to leave such area on Feb. 23,
1944, to go to: Spokane, Washington

for the following purpose:

Visit brother.

REPORT TO OFFICE
FOR 38-44
11-11
RE-INDUCTION

and is required to return to such relocation area via common carrier
as soon as such purpose has been achieved, and in any event to
reach such area by M., on March 8, 1944. No delay
and no travel not necessary to the above purpose is authorized.
This leave is subject to the terms of the regulations of the
War Relocation Authority relating to issuance of leave for de-
parture from a relocation area and subject to any special con-
ditions or restrictions set forth on the reverse side hereof.

Project Director

Harry L. Stafford
HARRY L. STAFFORD

(over)

RETURN TO
INDUCTION, RECORDS
& STATISTICS BUREAU

This leave is subject to the following special conditions
or restrictions:

I acknowledge that Masayo Horiuchi has arrived at
Spokane, Washington to visit brother.

Signature Takes Horiuchi

Date Feb. 24, 1944

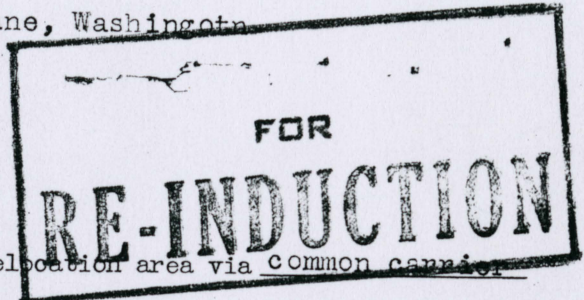
WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
ALIEN'S SHORT-TERM LEAVE

This is to certify that Iku Honiuchi, an alien of Japanese nationality residing in Block No. 21-6-A within Minidoka Relocation Area is allowed to leave such area on July 8,, 1944, to go to:

Spokane, Washington

for the following purposes:

Visit



and is required to return to such relocation area via COMMON CARRIER as soon as such purpose has been achieved, and in any event to reach such area by _____ M., on August 8,, 1944. No delay and no travel not necessary to the above purpose is authorized. This leave is subject to the terms of the regulations of the War Relocation Authority relating to issuance of leave for departure from a relocation area and subject to any special conditions or restrictions set forth on the reverse side hereof.

Travel to the first destination shown above and return from the last destination has been permitted by the Department of Justice. Travel to the second destination may take place only with the permission of the United States Attorney at Spokane and travel to other destinations shown above may take place only with the approval of the United States Attorney of the judicial district including the new point of departure.

July 7, 1944
(Date)

Harry L. Stafford
Project Director

This leave is subject to the following special conditions or restrictions:
I acknowledge that Iku Horuuchi has arrived at Spokane, Wash.
for a visit.

Signature I. Horuuchi
Date July 10, 1944